# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

# LABOUR REPORT.

1952.

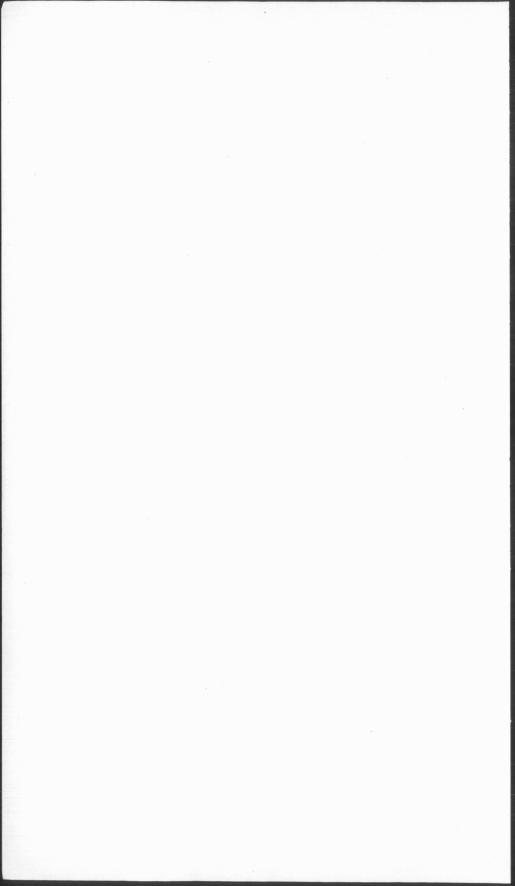
No. 41.

PREPARED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE TREASURER

BY

S. R. CARVER, ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

3666.



#### PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the forty-first of the series and deals chiefly with 1952, in addition to providing comparisons for previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1953.

The Report follows in the main the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five Chapters, viz., Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages and Hours; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes); and Labour Organizations. The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

A conspectus of workers' compensation legislation in Australia has been included in this Report (See Chapter IV, §8.) and two new sections have been added to the appendix—one containing memoranda and comment relating to the "C" Series Retail Price Index submitted during the 1949–50 Basic Wage Hearing and the other giving details of the judgment in the 1952–53 Basic Wage and Hours Inquiry.

In tabulating the results of investigations as to rates of wage, labour organizations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report:—

#### Groups of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmills, Timber-works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarrying, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	Х.	Other Land Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural,
	, 0,		Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, &c.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

Secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail traders, house agents, and others have readily supplied much information specially for the purposes of this Report, and my thanks are tendered to all who have thus assisted.

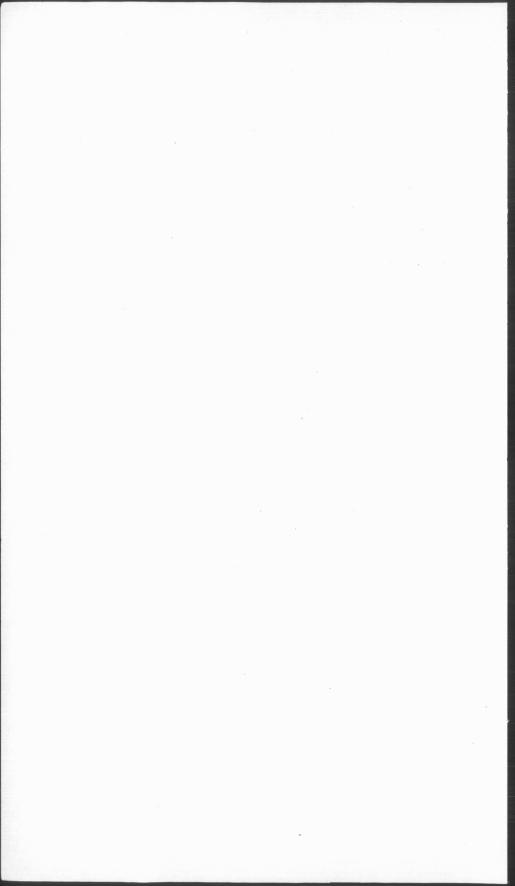
Grateful acknowledgment is also made of the continued assistance given by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the work done in the preparation of this Report by Mr. F. Stewart, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Prices Branch, Mr. E. H. Harry, B.A., B.Com., the Supervisor of the Employment and Labour Branch, and the staff under their control.

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Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, A.C.T., 13th November, 1953.



# SYNOPSIS.

		GIADEED I DEEAII DDIO	TELC A BIT	DDICE	TMDEV	TO	Pa	ige:
		CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRIC						_
5	1.	Collection of Information as to Retail P	rices .		•	• •		Ι
§	2.	Retail Price Indexes—						
		I. General						2
		2. Essential Features						3:
		3. The Regimen						3;
		2. Essential Features 3. The Regimen	Indexes .					4
c	0							
8		Various Retail Price Indexes						4
§	4.	Retail Price Levels ("C" Series Index						
		<ul><li>1. Significant Dates</li><li>2. "C" Series Retail Price Index, S</li></ul>	Six Capi	tal Cities		to 1953		5
§	5.	Increases in Retail Prices in Recent Y	Zears—					
Ü		I. Australia						7
		<ol> <li>Australia</li> <li>International Comparisons</li> </ol>						9
§	В	Construction of the "C" Series Reta						
3	0.	r. The Regimen						IO
		1. The Regimen	nd Metho	d of Tab	ulation			13.
		3. Relative "Aggregate Expenditure"	' of Item	s and Gr	oups			15
		3. Relative "Aggregate Expenditure" 4. Base Periods of the Indexes 5. Relative Population Weights for To						16
								17
§	7.	Tabular Statements of Retail Price In	idex-Nun	abers—				
		1. General 2. "C" Series Retail Price Index Six Capital Cities, December Q Six Capital Cities, November, 1 Thirty Towns 1914, and 1921 t Additional Towns, 1939, and 1						18
		2. "C" Series Retail Price Index .			1 -0.0 +			18
		Six Capital Cities, December Q	uarters,	1939, and Novembe	1 1940 t	0 1952		20
		Thirty Towns 1014 and 1021 t	1914, 10 .	MOVEILLOG	1920			21
		Additional Towns, 1939, and I	942 to 10	952				24
		" Group Index-Numbers of		beries, I	TILL VV I	OW110-19	14,	
		1921, 1939 and 1945 to	1952 (Fo	ood and	Groceri	es, Housi	ng,	0.5
		Clothing, Miscellaneous) 3. "B" Series Retail Price Index: F	lood On		d Rant			25 28
		Six Capital Cities, 1907 to 1953	7 00u, GI	,				28
		Groceries						28
		Groceries						28
		Dairy Produce Meat Food and Groceries						28
		Food and Groceries						28
		Housing (4 and 5-roomed I Food, Groceries and Housi	na na					28
		Thirty Towns, 1914, 1921, 1939	and 192	 15 to 195	2Grou	ps and To	tal	
8		Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Tow						32
§	9.	Changes in the Regimen and Review	of the	Index-				
		1. General 2. Revision of 1936 3. Method of Effecting Changes 4. Continuity of Indexes 5. The Index under War Conditions 6. The Index since 1945 7. Other Published Material Concern			.,.			32
		2. Revision of 1936						33
		3. Method of Effecting Changes						
		5 The Index under War Conditions						
		6. The Index since 1945						35
		7. Other Published Material Concern	ning the	Index				36
8	10.	Retail Price Indexes and Basic Wage V						
3	20,	(i) "A" Series Index						38
		An 1/2 1 2 1						38
		(iii) "C" Series Index						38
		. ()						39
								. <b>3</b> 9 <b>3</b> 9
								39
								40
		Scales Used for Automatic Wage Ad						
2	10	International Comparisons . Ratail Pr	rebrit ear	K-MITIM DA	1.95			42

								Page.
		CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE	E PRICE	S AND	PRICE I	NDEXE	g.	
S	1.	General						45
8	2.	Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and	d Foodst	uffs) Ind	ex			
		<ol> <li>Price Quotations</li> <li>Commodities and Grouping</li> <li>Method of Construction</li> <li>Index-numbers, 1928 to 1952</li> </ol>						45
		2. Commodities and Grouping						4.5
		3. Method of Construction						45
				• • /				47
8	3,	Melbourne Wholesale Price Index—						
		ı. General						47
		2. Index-numbers, 1861 to 1952						48
8	4.	International Comparisons: Wholes	sale Pric	e Index-l	Numbers	• •	• •	49
		CHAPTER III.—V	WAGES	AND HO	OURS.			
.8	1					n		
3	1.	Arbitration and Wages Board Acts a		ciateu L	egisiaulo	[]		
		<ol> <li>General</li> <li>Laws Regulating Industrial Mate</li> </ol>	ters					51 51
		3. Methods of Administration						51
		4. Awards, Determinations and Agr	reements	in Force	3			55
		5. New Legislation and Special Rep	orts					56
.8	2	Rates of Wage and Hours of Labor	nr					
2	~.	I. General						= ~
		2. Adult Male Weekly Wages—Stat	tes. 1891	to 1952				57 59
		3. Adult Male Weekly Wages—Aus	tr <b>a</b> lia—I	ndustria	l Groups	, 1891 ta	1952	59
		4. Adult Female Weekly Wages—S	tates, 19	14 to 19	52			61
		5. Adult Female Weekly Wages—Au	ıstralia-	-Industri	al Group	s, 1914 to	0 1952	62
		6. Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wa December, 1952—	age, and	Weekly	Hours o	t Labour	, 31st	
		(i) Comoral						62
		(ii) Adult Malas						60
		(iii) Adult Haies						64
		7. Adult Male Hourly Wages—State	es, 1914	to 1952				65
		8. Adult Female Hourly Wages—St	ates, 191	14 to 195	2			66
		<ol> <li>Nominal Weekly Hours of Labo</li> <li>Nominal Weekly Hours of Labou</li> </ol>	r-Adul	t Female	, States,	1914 to	1952	67
		11. Nominal and Effective Wages, 19	ou to ic	)52		, 1914 00	. 1952	68
		12. Productive Activity						70
0	-							
3	3.	Standard Hours of Work—						
		TTI I TTT I						70
		3. The 40-hour Week						70 71
								/-
8	4.	The Basic Wage and Child Endown	nent in	Australia				
		1. The Basic Wage—						
		(i) General (ii) Acts in Force						72
		(11) Acts in Force 2. The Commonwealth Basic Wage-						72
		(i) General						72
		(ii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934	1					72 74
		(iii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937	7					75
		(iv) "Lag" in Adjustments						76
		(v) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940 (vi) "Interim" Basic Wage I	nanier	7046			* *	76
		(vii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949		1940				77 78
		(viii) Rates Operative, Principal						80
		3. Basic Wage Rates for Females						81
		4. Australian Territories						86
		5. State Basic Wages						92
		6. Royal Commission on the Basic 7. Child Endowment						IO2 IO4

		]	Page.
	CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.		
§	1. Employment—		
	I. General		106
	(i) Australia, 1933 to 1947		106
	(ii) States, July, 1939 and June, 1947		108
	3. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment—  (i) Australia, Industrial Groups, 1939 to 1953		IIO
	(ii) States, 1933 to 1953		III
	(iii) Factories, by Main Classes, 1939 to 1952		113.
S	2. Unemployment—		
U	1. Total Persons Unemployed 2. Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions—		114
	(i) General		115.
	/*** A		115
	(iii) Australia, by Industrial Groups, 1952 (iv) Australia, by Industrial Groups, September Quarter, 1939, as	d	116
	Quarterly, September, 1051, to June, 1053		117
			117
	(vi) States, 1933 to 1952, and Quarterly, March, 1950,	to	,
	June, 1953		118
	3. Unemployment, Various Countries, 1952		119
§	3. Commonwealth Employment Service		II9
§	4. State Labour Exchanges		I21
8	5. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits—		
	ı. General		121
	2. Maximum Rates of Benefits and Income		121
	3. Means Test		I22
	4. Waiting Period		I22
	5. Special Benefit		I22
	4. Waiting Period 5. Special Benefit		122
c			123.
8	6. Industrial Disputes—		
	'I. General		123
	2. Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1952 3. Industrial Disputes, 1939 and 1948 to 1952		124
	3. Industrial Disputes, 1939 and 1948 to 1952 4. Duration of Industrial Disputes		I27 I28
	5. Causes of Industrial Disputes		130-
	6. Results of Industrial Disputes		132
	7. Methods of Settlement		132
8	7. Industrial Accidents—		
	ı. General		136
	2. Mining Accidents, 1952		136
§	8. Workers' Compensation Legislation		137
U			-37
	CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.		
§	1. Labour Organizations in Australia—		
	ı. General		146
	2. Trade Unions—Number and Membership, 1939 and 1949 to 1952		146.
	3. Trade Unions—Industrial Groups, 1939 and 1949 to 1952		147
	4. Trade Unions—Numbers of Male and Female Members and Ratio Wage and Salary Earners—  (i) States, 1952	to	148
	(ii) Australia, 1939 and 1949 to 1952		148
	5. Trade Unions—Classification according to Number of Members, 19	39	1.0
	and 1949 to 1952		149
			150
			150
	8. Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Ac	CL	151
8	2. International Labour Organization—		
	I. General		152
	2. The 36th Session		<b>I5</b> 2
	3. Governing Body		152

Page.

APPENDIX.	
ection I. Average Retail Prices of Chief Food and Groceries Items, each Capital City, monthly, 1952 II. Weekly House Rents in Metropolitan and Provincial Towns, 1939	153
and 1947 to 1952	159
and 1947 to 1952	160
", IV. "Court" Index (Third Series), December Quarter, 1951 to	163
December Quarter, 1952  V. "C" Series Retail Price Index—Memoranda and Comment submitted during the Basic Wage Hearing, 1949–50, and Extracts from Judgments of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and	
Arbitration	164
VI. Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53 VII. Minimum Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour for Adult Male	213
Workers, 31st December, 1952	214
Workers, 31st December, 1952	228
IX. Weekly Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour: Australia, Great Britain and Northern Ireland and New Zealand X. Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration Basic Wage	231
Rates, 1023 to 1953	234
XI. Comparative Index-numbers (1911 Base), Six Capital Cities, 1911 to June Quarter, 1953—Retail Prices, Wages and Unemployment	237
NDEX	239
GRAPHS.	
. Wholesale and Retail Prices: Nominal and Effective or Real Wages—Index-	
numbers, Australia, 1911 to 1952	50
<ol> <li>Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment, Australia, 1939 and 1943 to 1953, by main Industrial Groups</li></ol>	109
3. Industrial Disputes: Working Days Lost in Industrial Groups, Australia, 1939 to 1952	126

# CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

# § 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices.

The retail prices of the extensive range of commodities and services in common demand (generally referred to as the "regimen") used in compiling the "C" Series Retail Price Index (see list on pages II-I3 hereof) have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately 200 towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942 when collection was discontinued.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for earlier years extending back to 1901 were collected by this Bureau, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States as far back as 1864.

The methods by which prices used in the "C" Series Index are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows:—

- (i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the index and each is required to furnish information as to prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more retailers in each of the capital cities, and from five or more retailers in each of the provincial towns. To cover all commodities in the regimen, collection is made from approximately 60 retailers in each capital city and 30 in each provincial town.
- (ii) Information is collected under authority of the Census and Statistics

  Act 1905–1949 which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of any return.

(iii) The actual collection of returns is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, etc.

(iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to obtain requisite information. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable, Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.

- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for identical goods and quality will be recorded at all times and for all places.
- (vi) The list of items in the regimen and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary suitable adjustment is made in computing the retail price index to ensure that it reflects changes in price with due precision and that it is not vitiated by the influence of other changes. (See also § 9, page 32 below.) Because of rapidly changing conditions since 1948, prices have been ascertained for a large number of items not embraced in the index and for an increasing number of types of "regimen" items. The purpose of this is to ensure that the index is kept representative and reliable within its definition.
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of four and five rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town covered by the index, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from the Census of 1933 and other records and was checked with the results of the Census of 1947. Although expressed in money terms the average rentals as published are essentially indexes. As such they do not necessarily indicate the average amount of rental actually paid for all rented houses, and still less do they indicate the rental at which vacant or new houses can be rented (see footnote (b) on page 10).

#### § 2. Retail Price Indexes.

r. General.—The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

A full explanation of the methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved is contained in the 2 ppendix to Labour Report No. 9.

For convenience the group of selected items is called a "regimen", and the quantities consumed per annum of each item used in the index are called "mass units" or "weights". These terms are used herein. In compiling the index the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight" and then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by denoting the aggregate of a selected or "base" period as 1000, and calculating all index-numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to that of the base period. (See § 6 (2), page 13.)

- 2. Essential Features.—Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—
  - (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;

(b) that the regimen be as representative as possible of the field to be covered:

(c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

3. The Regimen.—The regimen must be a selected regimen because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. Even in normal times there is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the regimen of the index to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend the regimen by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The regimen of the index therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. In fact the regimen used for the "C" Series Index is simply a selected list of items combined

approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained.

The regimen and "weights" used in the "C" Series Index are published in full on pages II to I3.

in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions

4. Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.—Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a constant standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, they measure as nearly as may be the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index. The regimen is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. (See middle of page 37.)

5. Effects of Abnormal Conditions on Indexes.—Under abnormal conditions since 1940, scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grades in common use have created unusual difficulty in obtaining the data necessary for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, this has rendered it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This has been the case more particularly in the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the regimen. Substitutions of similar kind were necessary at times under normal conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. Such substitutions are not injurious to the index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as they arise. No change in principle is involved. The index continues to measure, as accurately as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Just as in the pre-war period, those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralized by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new item as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

In normal times, popular usage of items in general consumption changes slowly and the weight of items and groups in the regimen is changed only at long intervals. In abnormal times, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors actually produce short term changes in usage. The weights applicable to the items in the regimen cannot, however, be changed frequently and at short intervals. (See § 9 (5), page 35.)

# § 3. Various Retail Price Indexes.

Two main series of retail price index-numbers are compiled and shown in some detail in the following pages, namely:—

(i) the "B" Series Index relating only to food, groceries and housing, continuously available from 1907;

(ii) the "C" Series Index relating to food, groceries, housing, clothing, household drapery and utensils, fuel and light, and other miscellaneous items of household expenditure, continuously available from 1914.

The "B" Series Index comprises only the food, groceries and housing sections of the "C" Series Index. Reference is made on pages 38 to 40 of this Report to the "A" Series Index and the "D" Series Index (which are no longer compiled), the "Court" Series Index and various other series of retail price index-numbers.

The "C" Series Index in total provides a reliable measure of aggregate variations in retail prices (as well as of group indexes for component sections) of a high percentage of goods and services used in wage-earner households. This index is compiled for:—

(a) the capital city of each of the six States,

(b) four other principal towns in each of the six States,

(c) weighted average of five towns (including capital city) in each of the six States,

(d) weighted average of the Six Capital Cities combined,

(e) weighted average of the Thirty Towns (including capital cities), (f) separate indexes for Warwick, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Canberra.

The "C" Series Index formed the basis of the "Court" Series Index used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the "cost of living" adjustments of wages prescribed by awards made by the Court prior to its decision of 12th September, 1953. (See Appendix, page 213.)

### § 4. Retail Price Levels ("C" Series Index) 1914 to 1953.

1. Significant Dates.—The aggregate indexes for November, 1914, 1921 and 1922, and the years 1923 to 1952, for the Thirty Towns are published in summary form on pages 21-23 hereof, while the following table furnishes the relevant index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

# "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS. WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base: Weighted Ave	erage of	Six Ca <sub>1</sub>	pital Cities, 1923–27 = 1,000.)
1914, November			687 (Beginning of War I.)
1918, November			905 (End of War I.)
1920, November			1,166 (Post-War peak)
1922, November			975 (Post-War trough)
1929, Year			
1933, Year			804 (Depression trough)
1939, September Quar			916 (Pre-War II.)
1943, March Quarter			1,123 (Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter			
1945, September Quar	er		1,126 (End of War II.)
1948, September Quar	ter		1,311
1950, September Quar			1,572
1952, September Quart	ter		2,238
1953, June Quarter			2,293

The index rose by approximately 32 per cent. during the first world war and by a further 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918, to November, 1920). From November, 1920, to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent., and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization), the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with March Quarter, 1943, the index-number at the close of the war was practically unchanged.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war, price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the first world war in 1914. After June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., were progressively

modified and by the end of 1948 and early 1949 had been virtually eliminated. Price control was transferred from Commonwealth to State authorities in September, 1948. In the latter part of 1950 export prices (especially for wool) rose very substantially and have remained relatively very high. In December, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration raised the basic wage by approximately 14 per cent. Concurrently, public works expenditure and private investment rose to very high levels.

An account of price control measures and of price stabilization in Australia was published in *Official Year Book* No. 37, pages 458–463, No. 38, page 414 and No. 39, pages 398–9.

2. "C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1953. — The movement in the various groups of the index and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities combined:—

"C" Series Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index-Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined, 1914 to 1953.

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

	Period.		Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses).(b)	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses) ("B" Series).	Clothing.	Miscell- aneous.	Total, "C" Series Index.
1914 (c)			641	649	644	754	749	682
1915 (c)			842	659	777	792	786	782
1916 (c)			812	665	760	881	802	795
1917 (c)			836	685	782	992	882	847
1918 (c)			861	722	812	1,097	972	905
1919 (c)			1,026	768	934	1,238	1,036	1,022
1920 (c)			1,209	851	1,082	1,365	1,194	1,166
1921 (c)			950	877	924	1,246	1,010	1,013
1922 (c)	* *		.945	929	939	1,052	999	975
1923			1,009	950	988	1,045	999	1,003
1924			969	988	975	1,003	1,004	987
1925			998	1,008	1,002	991	992	992
1926			1,023	1,026	1,024	986	998	1,011
1927			1,000	1,030	I,OII	975	1,008	1,002
1928	• •		985	1,066	1,014	997	1,010	1,000
1929			1,044	1,073	1,054	996	1,007	1,033
1930			941	1,047	978	951	999	975
1931			826	901	852	853	973	873
1932			796 751	817 804	803 768	804 787	958 950	830 804
		* *					930	
1934			783	810	792	785	944	817
1935			806	839	818	783	946	832
1936			825	879	844	792	947	850
1937			<b>851</b> 886	912	872 906	811 820	960 961	873 893
1930		* * *	000	944	900	049	901	09,
1939	* *		927	965	939	841	962	920
1940			939	973	950	956	998	95
1941			947	976	956	1,118	1,060	1,008
1942 1943			1,031	976 975	1,007	1,308 1,440	1,112	1,091
7044			7.006	976	7.00		7 765	
1944 1945			1,026 1,034	975	1,004	I,435 I,425	1,165 1,161	I,120
1945			1,034	9/3	1,009	1,425	1,161	I,120
1947			1,100	977	1,050	1,566	1.199	1,188
1948			1,256	979	1,145	1,744	1,257	1,295
1949			1,394	982	1,230	1,997	1,338	1,41
1950			1,566	987	1,336	2,286	1.435	1,560
1951			2,041	1,009	1,634	2,749	1,679	1,88
1952			2,526	1,057	1,947	3,096	1,958	2,196

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10.

<sup>(</sup>b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

<sup>(</sup>c) November.

"C" Series Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index-Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined, 1914 to 1953—continued.

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	,	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses).(b)	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses) ("B" Series).	Clothing.	Miscell- aneous.	Total, "C" Series Index.
Quarter— 1939—September		920	967	936	836	961	916
1939 coperation		, , , ,	3-7	93"	-55-	, , ,	, , ,
June September December		1,028 1,037 1,040 1,030	975 975 975 975	1,005 1,011 1,013 1,007	1,421 1,416 1,415 1,448	1,161 1,161 1,161 1,161	1,123 1,125 1,126 1,129
1946March		1,036	976	1,010	1,456	1,164	1,134
June		1,042	976	1,014	1,494	1,167	1,145
September		1,029	976	1,006	1,521	1,167	1,146
December		1,037	976	1,011	1,550	1,170	1,156
1947—March		1,071	976	1,032	1,525	1,181	1,165
June		1,088	976	1,042	1,534	1,184	1,174
September		1,104	977	1,052	1,566	1,213	1,192
December		1,138	977	1,073	1,639	1,217	1,221
1948—March		1,190	978	1,105	1,661	1,231	1,248
June		1,229	979	1,129	1,720	1,248	1,278
September		1,274	979	1,156	1,778	1,271	1,311
December		1,330	980	1,190	1,818	1,277	1,341
1949—March	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1,361	981	1,209	1,849	1,304	1,364
June		1,388	981	1,226	1,963	1,325	1,403
September		1,396	982	1,232	2,043	1,345	1,428
December		1,429	983	1,252	2,132	1,378	1,466
1950—March		1,473	984	1,279	2,156	1,402	1,491
June		1,520	986	1,308	2,261	1,413	1,534
September		1,582	987	1.346	2,316	1,432	1,572
December		1,689	989	1,412	2,410	1,492	1,643
1951—March		1,790	1,004	1,480	2,487	1,564	1,713
June		1,925	1,007	1,563	2,746	1,641	1,833
September		2,136	1,010	1,692	2,833	1,715	1,943
December		2,311	1,013	1,800	2,930	, 1,794	2,042
1952—March June September December		2,404 2,567 2,592 2,542	1,023 1,041 1,070 1,094	1,860 1,966 1,992 1,971	2,992 3,099 3,115 3,177	1,828 1,949 2,018 2,035	2,098 2,206 2,238 2,243
1953—March		2,572	I,122	2,001	3,200	2,048	2,268
June		2,605	I,136	2,026	3,245	2,051	2,293

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

#### §. 5. Increases in Retail Prices in Recent Years.

I. Australia.—The following statement shows, for the six capital cities combined, the percentage increases which have taken place between specified dates in respective groups included in the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

# "C" Series Retail Price Index: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities.

#### A.—Percentage Increases in Group Indexes, and in Index as a Whole.

The following table shows, for the capital cities combined, the percentage increases in the "C" Series Retail Price Index as a whole, and in the prices of items in each group considered as a group, between the dates specified:—

Period.	Aggregate "C" Series Index.	Food and Groceries Group.	Rent Group.	Clothing Group.	Miscel- laneous Group.
September Quarter, 1939 to September	%	%	%	%	%
Quarter, 1945	22.9	13.0	0.8	69.3	20.8
Quarter, 1948	16.5	22.5	0.4	25.6	9.4
Quarter, 1950	19.9	24.I	0.8	30.2	12.7
Quarter, 1952	42.4	63.8	8.4	. 34.4	40.9
Quarter, 1953	2.5	0.5	6.1	4.2	1.6
September Quarter, 1939 to June Quarter, 1953	150.3	183.2	17.4	288.3	113.4

### B.—Contribution of Each Group to the Percentage Increase of the Total Index.

The following table dissects the percentage increases in the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index in such a way as to show the component parts of such increases due to the rise in each of the four main groups of the index:—

Group.	September	September	September	September	September	September
	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,
	1939 to	1945 to	1948 to	1950 to	1952 to	1939 to
	September	September	September	September	June	June
	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,	Quarter,
	1945.	1948.	1950.	1952.	1953.	1953.
Food and Groceries Rent	%	%	%	%	%	%
	4.7	7.5	8.5	23.1	0.2	66.3
	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.7	4.2
	13.9	7.1	9.0	11.2	1.3	57.8
	4.1	1.8	2.3	6.9	0.3	22.0
Total ("C" Series Index)	22.9	16.5	19.9	42.4	2.5	150.3

This table shows that rises in prices of clothing caused the aggregate of the index to rise by 13.9 per cent. in the six years September Quarter, 1939, to September Quarter, 1945. Increased prices of food and groceries caused the aggregate "C" Series Index to rise by 4.7 per cent. For other groups, the corresponding contributory increases were:—in the miscellaneous group 4.1 per cent. and in the rent group 0.2 per cent., making a total increase of

22.9 per cent. in the aggregate "C" Series Index. Following the corresponding lines across the table it is evident that the rise in prices of food and groceries has become the major cause of the rise in the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index since September Quarter, 1950.

2. International Comparisons.—The following table shows the increase in recent years in Australia and certain other countries.

Retail Price Index-Numbers.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Miscellaneous Household Expenditure.)

Date.	Australia.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.	United States of America.
1939—					(a)	
September Quarter	100	100	100	100	100	100
1940— $Year(b)$	105	119	105	104	104	100
(941-,, (b))	110	104	III	108	100	105
(942,, (b))	119	129	116	III	118	116
(943-,,(b))	124	128	117	114	126	125
(944,, (b))	123	129	118	116(c)	130	123
(945,, (b))	123	131	119	118	133	127
(946 - ,, (b)	125	131	123	118	135	138
1947— ,, (b)	130	102(d)	134	122	141	158
(b)	141	108	154	132	149	170
(b)	154	III	160	134(e)	154	168
(950-,,(b))	170	114	165	142	160	171
(951-,,(b))	206	124	183	157	172	185
1952— ,,	240	136	186	170	187	189
952—March Quarter	229	133	189	167	183	187
June ,,	241	136	186	169	185	188
Sept. ,,	244	137	186	171	188	190
Dec. ,,	245	138	183	172	192	190
oza Manah Onantan	- 0			,		
953—March Quarter	1	139	183	174	190	180
June "	250	141	183	176	193	190

(a) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure.
(b) Quarterly indexes appear in preceding issues.
(c) War-time Index linked to former series.
(d) New Series (Base: 17th June, 1947 = 100)
commencing from September quarter, 1947.
(e) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index from March quarter, 1949, onwards. Index-numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (base 1926-30) with the new index.

During the second world war price control measures were generally introduced at an early stage and became more stringent as the war progressed, culminating in a policy of price stabilization.

Immediately after the outbreak of war in September, 1939, the Commonwealth Government took steps to control prices, and, by proclamation issued from day to day, pegged prices of various commodities at those ruling on 31st August, 1939. The National Security (Prices) Regulations proclaimed on 28th September, 1939, under the authority of the National Security Act, established the basic principles of war-time price control, provided for the appointment of a Commonwealth Prices Commissioner and conferred upon him extensive powers to control the price of goods declared for that purpose by the Minister for Trade and Customs. In Official Year Book No. 37, pages 458–463, a brief summary of the development of this control is published, while in No. 38, page 414, reference is made to the transfer in September, 1948, of price control to the Governments of the States.

#### § 6. Construction of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

I. The Regimen.—The regimen from which the "C" Series Index is compiled consists of a list of commodities and services which commonly enter into the consumption of the average household and in respect of which comparative prices can be ascertained with due precision from time to time and place to place. (See § 2 (3) and (4), page 3 above.) The regimen is divided into the following Groups and Sections:—

Group.	Section.
I. Food and Groceries	A.—Groceries. B.—Dairy Produce. C.—Meat.
II. Housing	D.—House Rent.
III. Clothing	E.—Clothing—Man. F.—Clothing—Woman. G.—Clothing—Boy (10½ years). H.—Clothing—Girl (7 years). J.—Clothing—Boy (3½ years).
IV. Miscellaneous	K.—Household Drapery. L.—Household Utensils. M.—Fuel and Light. N.—Other Miscellaneous.

The "C" Series Index includes the whole of the foregoing Groups, but for many purposes indexes are required for individual Groups or Sections. For this reason the following indexes are regularly compiled at the intervals shown, and published in this Report and other publications issued by the Bureau:—

Group.	Content.	Frequency.
1.	Food and Groceries	Monthly
II.	Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses) (b)	Quarterly
I. and II.	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses) ("B" Series)	Quarterly
III.	Clothing	Quarterly
IV.	Miscellaneous Household Requirements	Quarterly
., II., III. and IV.	Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses), Clothing and Miscellaneous ("C"Series)	Quarterly

For convenience of reference two of the indexes mentioned above have been given the "series" designation shown against them. These indexes are dealt with in turn in the following pages.

<sup>(</sup>a) "Group" or "Sectional" index-numbers in the various tables throughout this Report cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing or Miscelaneous requirements, since each "Group" or "Section" (or combination thereof) has its own Base = 1,000, viz., the weighted average cost for the Six Capital Cities as a whole during the five-yearly period 1923-27 for that "Group" or "Section". (b) Rent. The rent index-numbers shown in the tables in this Report measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms, taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Similarly, "average rents" where shown are indexes of "price" changes in rentals expressed in terms of pence. They are not the average of rents actually paid by all tenants of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It would be inappropriate to include the average of rents actually paid in an index designed to measure price changes only. The average of rents actually paid is ascertained periodically by Census methods (see also page 2 above). Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account.

The articles and services included in the various regimens now used for the purposes of the indexes referred to are shown in the following table:—

# Retail Price Indexes—Regimen. GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

No.	Item.		Unit		"Weight" or Mass Unit (per capita).	Regin percen aggrega Six C Ci Dec. (	of of ms in nen as tage of te cost—capital ties—cuarter, 2. (a)
	Section A	A.—G	ROCERIES				
I	Bread, white flour (cash delivere	d)	2-lb. los	ıf	100	1 3.55	)
2	Flour, ordinary		2 lb.		25	0.64	
3	Flour, self-raising		2-lb. pk	t	12	0.57	
4	Flour, self-raising		I-lb. pk	t	8	1.12	
5	Sugar, white granulated, IA		ı lb.		100	2.62	
6							
7	Sago, seed taploca		ı lb.		I	0.07	
8	Jam, plum		11-lb. t		8	0.66	
9	Golden Syrup		2-lb. tir		I	0.05	
10	Oats, flaked, loose		ı lb.		8	0.27	13.3
II	Raisins, seeded		I-lb. pk		5	0.47	1-3.3.
12	Currants, 100se, 2-Crown		ı lb.		2	0.13	
13	Apricots, dried, loose, 2-Crown		ı lb.		1	0.18	
14	Peaches, canned Pears, canned		30-oz. t		3	0.32	
15 16			30-oz. t		I	0.12	
17	Potatoes, new and old		7 lb.		18	T 10	
18	Onions brown		7 lb.			1.49	
10	Onions, brown		i lb.		14	0.21	
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk		quart		16	0.74	
20	Section B.—		1		4	0.11	)
21	Butter, factory "choicest"		ı lb.		30	4.18	
22	Cheese, ordinary, mild		ı lb.		4	0.38	
23	Eggs, standard, new laid		I doz.		6	I.02	
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle Milk, condensed, sweetened		ı lb.		12		>11.70
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened		I tin		5	0.29	
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or bottled	пот	quart		the contract of the contract o	0 =0	
			· A		72	3.70	)
	SECTION	V U	-NIEAT.		1		
	Beef (fresh)—		- 11				
27			ı lb.		18	1.87	
28	Prime Rib (Roast) including		ı lb.		22	1.81	
29	Steak—Rump		ı lb.		II	1.50	
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing)		Ilb.		20	1.69	
31	Sausages	. ,	ı lb.		7	0.39	
20	Silverside		ı lb.		7.4	T 0.	
32	To 1.1 / 11.1		1 lb.		14	1.34	
33	Brisket, rolled Mutton (fresh)—		1 10,		15	1.12	
2.4			ı lb.		20	1.26	215.79
34	Forequarter		ı lb.			0.64	
35 36	Loin, without flap		ı lb.		15	0.04	
37	Chops—Loin		ı lb.		4 30	1.94	
37 38	Chops—Leg		ı lb.		10	0.66	
50	Pork (fresh)—		1.00		10	0.00	
39	Leg		ı lb.		3	0.44	
40	Loin, best end		ı lb.		3	0.44	
4I	Chops		ı lb.		3	0.44	
7						74.	/
	GROUP II.—HOUS					1	
42	House Accommodation(b)		week		52(6)	II.	27

<sup>(</sup>a) Percentages for the various sections of the remaining Groups—III. Clothing and IV. Miscellaneous—of the "C" Series Index are shown on page 16. (b) Four and five-roomed houses. (c) Perhousehold.

#### Retail Price Indexes-Regimen-continued.

#### GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

No.	Item.	"Weight" or Mass Unit (per capita).	No.	Item.	". Weight" or Mass Unit (per
	SECTION E.—CLOTHING—MAN.				
1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	Suit, ready-made, Worsted (Australian) Trousers, working, Cotton Tweed (Australian) Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) Shirt, Fashion Shirt, Wooking, Drill Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves) Singlet, Cotton (athletic) Underpants, Wool and Cotton (full length) Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" Sox, All Wool and Cotton (full length) Praces Handkerchief, Cotton (4.65) Braces Handkerchief, Cotton (5.65) Braces Handkerchief, Cotton (6.65) Braces Handkerchief, Cotton (7.65)	0.67 2.00 0.25 1.00 1.67 4.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) Cap, Skull, Cloth Shirt, Sports Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves) Slinglet, Cotton (athletic) Braces Stockings, Golf, All Wool Pyjamas, Winceyette Pullover, All Wool Shoes, Box Yearling  \$\alpha\$ (3.13)	0.33 1.5e  5.00 1.00 1.00 4.00 1.5e 0.5e 1.00
20 21 23 24 25 26 27 29 31 32 33 34 35 55 57 88	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)  Ritt. ready-made, Tweed (Australian)  Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)  Hat, Straw  Frock, ready-made, Cotton Frock, ready-made, Rayon Brassiere  Undervest, Wool and Rayon Undervest, Rayon Pantette, Rayon Stockings, Silk, Nylon Stockings, Lisle Gloves, Fabric Gloves, Fabric Gloves, Rappa Nightdress, Rayon Pyjamas, Winceyette  Apron, Cotton	0.50 1.25  0.75 1.50 1.50	58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74	Tunio, Wool  Dress, Cotton Top Coat, Tweed (Australian) Hat, Wool Felt (Australian) Hat, Straw  Petticoat, Rayon Singlet, Wool and Rayon Singlet, Rayon Pantette, Cotton, fleecy-lined Pantette, Rayon Sox, Anklet, Rayon and Lisle Pyjamas, Wincevette Pyjamas, Rayon Pullover, All Wool Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather Shoes (school), Box Yearling	1.00 0.33 1.00 2.00 0.50 2.00 2.00 4.00 0.50 0.50 1.00 0.50 1.00 0.50 1.00 0.50 1.00 0.50 1.00 0.50 1.00 0.50 1.00 1.0
39 40 41 42 43	Apron, Cotton	0.50 1.50 1.50	76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85	Shirt, Ranger Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) Hat, Cloth Singlet, Wool and Cotton Singlet, Cotton (athletic) Sox, Anklet, Rayon and Lisle Pyllover, All Wool Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling	3.00 3.00 0.33 1.33 1.00 1.00 4.00 2.00 0.50

<sup>(</sup>a) Mass unit actually applicable, and includes "weight" transferred from similar article now deleted. (b) The mass units were raised by 50 per cent. throughout this Section to restore its due proportionate "weight" in the Clothing Group of the Index as from September Quarter, 1936.

#### Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.

#### GROUP IV.-MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Item.	"Weight" or Mass Unit (per household).	No.	Item.	"Weight" or Mass Unit (per household).
	SECTION K.—HOUSEHOLD DRAF	PERY.	SE	CTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS—	-continued.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Blankets, D.B. (pair) Blankets, S.B. (pair) Quilt, D.B.  Sheets, D.B. (pair) Sheets, S.B. (pair) Pillow Slip, Cotton Towel	0.07 0.14 0.25  0.50 1.00 5.00	26 27 28 29 30 31	Knife, Table (stainless) Spoon, Tea Spoon, Dessert Fork, Table Globe, Electric Light (gas-filled) Iron, Electric (full size)	0.10 0.08 0.08 0.10 2.00 0.10
9 10	Towel	0.20		SECTION M.—FUEL AND LIG	нт.
	SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTEN	SILS.	32 33 34 35	Firewood (blocks) (ewt.) (b) Gas, cooking (units) (b) Electric lighting (units) Electric power (units) (b)	1,518
11 12 13 14 15	Cup and Saucer Plate, Dinner (Stone China) Jug, Quart (Earthenware) Teapot Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 64-Inch Tumbler (8-0z.)	2.00 2.00 1.00 0.25 1.00		SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLA	NEOUS.
17 - 18 19 20 31 52 23 34	Kettle, Enamel (4-pint) a (0.37)  Saucepan, Enamel (3-pint)  Bucket, Galvanized (11-inch)  Dipper  Broom, Millet  Broom, Hair, complete (12-inch)  Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch)  Mop, Polishing, complete	0.20 0.40 0.20 0.20 0.50 0.33 1.50 0.20	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	Union Dues Lodge Dues Medicine Newspapers Recreation Smoking Fares School requisites	(c) (c) (c) (c) (c)

(a) Mass unit actually applicable, and includes "weight" transferred from similar article now deleted.

(b) Standard mass units. In certain provincial towns where gas and/or electricity are not used the mass units differ from the standard.

(c) A basic amount per week is varied quarterly (where necessary) in accordance with changes shown by an index of variation.

2. The Mass Units (or "Weights") and Method of Tabulation.—
(i) The "mass units" (or "weights") are multipliers representing the approximate average annual consumption per head or per household under normal conditions. The index-numbers are computed on a "total annual aggregative expenditure" basis, i.e., the total annual expenditure from time to time by a standard population in respect of the selected regimen of commodities and services commonly entering into household consumption, and of a constant standard quality. As a first step, therefore, it is necessary to multiply the price of each item by its "weight" per head or per household as the case may be. Thus, the "weight" of bread is 100 2-lb, loaves per

head; of sugar 100 lb. per head; of towels 3 per household; and of housing 52 rent-weeks per household. The result of this initial calculation is designated the "P.MU" aggregate (i.e., Price x Mass Unit).

The sum of the above "P.MU" results for each Section or Group is then multiplied by its appropriate population or household "weight" to produce the respective annual aggregate expenditures. Thus, Sections A to C (Food and Groceries) would be multiplied by the total population; Section D (Housing) by the total number of households; Sections E to J (Clothing) by the proportion of the total population applicable to each; and Sections K to N (Miscellaneous) by the total number of households.

The combination of the aggregates from the last paragraph gives the "total annual aggregate expenditure" for the whole regimen, from which the "C" Series index-number is derived by applying to 1,000 the ratio which the aggregate for any period bears to the aggregate for the base period of the index. In the process of tabulation all prices are converted to pence for these final aggregates.

For tabulating purposes some of these "mass units" are varied when necessary to make up a deficiency or cancel out an excess in the aggregate resulting from a change in the standard of any item upon which prices are collected, to ensure that such changes shall not be wrongly recorded by the index as variations in prices. The "mass units" published above, however, still continue to show the correct relative consumption "weights" actually applicable to the commodities and services in the regimen for the constant standards used in the index. See also § 2 (3) and § 6 (3) of this chapter.

- (ii) The five sections into which the clothing group is divided are somewhat arbitrary, but they follow those adopted by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage (see page 102). The sections for men and women are now regarded as being applicable to persons aged seventeen years and upwards. The section for a boy aged ten and a half years is taken as representative of both sexes from ten to sixteen years; the section for a girl aged seven as representative of both sexes from five to nine years; and the section for a boy aged three and a half years is taken as representative of children aged four years and under.
- (iii) In estimating the annual average consumption per head of food and groceries for household purposes, small adjustments in the crude average consumption were made in two ways. Consumption by factories, when the product did not go into household use in Australia, was deducted. On the other hand, the "weights" given to some foods, such as dried apricots and canned peaches, cover also the consumption of other similar foods. The "weights" of individual food items were not adjusted to take account of war-time scarcities and rationing.

- (iv) Some foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions, are not included in the regimen because comparable prices for a standard grade cannot be obtained from time to time or place to place and because of marked seasonal fluctuations in supplies and consumption. The inclusion of such items, therefore, would impair the accuracy of the index. In the original regimen certain omissions were made partly on account of the difficulty of securing comparable prices. Some cuts of meat, for example, are excluded because they are not uniformly standardized. Mutton is included and not lamb because the latter, in many places, is available only seasonally. However, the appropriate total weight for meat is distributed amongst the cuts included in the regimen. Proprietary lines of breakfast foods are excluded because they are not universally available.
- (v) In the case of Food and Groceries (Group I.) the "weights" adopted are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes of the various articles during the years 1927 to 1929. The "weights" allotted to items in Clothing (Group III.) and Household Drapery (Section K of Group IV.) are based largely on the results of the inquiries of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. After exhaustive inquiries the Commission published a "regimen" for an average working family of five persons, and set out the constituent items in its "Indicator List". This list, so far as it related to the articles in question, was followed substantially in the original compilation of the "C" Series Index and has been adjusted by subsequent investigations of the Bureau to accord with changes in popular usage. The "mass units" used for fuel and light are based, indirectly, on the findings of the Commission. Until September Quarter, 1936, fixed amounts were used for the miscellaneous items of Section N, but since the date mentioned, provision has been made to vary certain of these amounts periodically, in accordance with ascertained changes.
- (vi) The "weights" allotted to the items were not adjusted to take account of war-time shortages or rationing, and the index therefore measured war-time price changes in relation to a normal (or pre-war) apportionment of household expenditure. (See § 2 (5) and § 9 (5) of this chapter.)
- 3. Relative "Aggregate Expenditure" of Items and Groups.—In the base period of the index (the years 1923 to 1927) the relative importance of each of the four main groups, expressed as a percentage of the weighted average "aggregate expenditure" in the Six Capital Cities (from which all relative index-numbers are derived) was as shown in the third column of the following table. Although the "weight" of each item in the regimen is kept virtually constant, the relative "aggregate expenditure" of the various items and groups varies from time to time as relative prices change.

The percentage distribution for the Six Capital Cities as a whole for the December Quarter, 1952, is shown in the last column of the table for comparison with that of the *base period*.

Character		Proportion of Aggregate Expenditure					
Group.	Section.	1923-27. (Base). Six Capital Cities.	Dec. Qtr., 1952. Six Capital Cities				
I. Food and Groceries II. Housing III. Clothing IV. Miscellaneous	A Groceries B Dairy Produce C Meat D House Rent— (4 and 5-roomed houses)  E Man G H. J. Children K Household Drapery L Household Utensils M Fuel and Light N Other Miscellaneous	10.28 38.66	15.79 J 11.27 11.27 12.80 13.50 31.12				

4. Base Periods of the Indexes.—The base period originally adopted by the Bureau for its retail price indexes was the year 1911. When the collection of the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items was undertaken for the purposes of the "C" Series Index, the month of November, 1914, was adopted as the base period for this series. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a new base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians in 1929, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the five years 1923–27 should be adopted as the base period. Commencing with Labour Report No. 21 for 1930, therefore, the retail price indexes have been published on this base. The aggregate to which all index-numbers are related is the weighted "aggregate expenditure" of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base expressed as an index-number of 1,000.

Conferences of statisticians in 1949 and 1950 left consideration of the adoption of a new base period to be made in conjunction with the next general review of the index. In the Monthly Review of Business Statistics the index is recomputed with the three years ended June, 1939, as base.

Indexes on the earlier bases mentioned will be found in previous issues of the Labour Report, as follows:—

- (i) 1911 Base.—Food and groceries; rent of all houses; and food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" Series Index)—Labour Reports Nos. I to 15.\* Food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; and food, groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses ("B" Series Index)—Labour Reports Nos. 16 to 20.
- (ii) 1914 Base.—Food and groceries; rent of all houses; clothing; miscellaneous; all items of household expenditure (subsequently retrospectively revised to include rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses only)—

These index-numbers appear in the Appendix to each Labour Report Nos. 16 to 28 and also in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics up to No. 155, June, 1938.

Labour Reports Nos. 12 to 16. Food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing; miscellaneous; all items of household expenditure ("C" Series Index)—Labour Reports Nos. 17 to 20.

The conversion of these indexes from one base to another may be readily effected by multiplying the index-number to be converted by the

appropriate factor shown in the following table:-

Group.	1911 to 1914 (a).	1914 (a) to 1911.	1911 to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1911.	1914 (a) to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1914(#)
Food and Groceries Housing (4 and 5-roomed	0.87230	1.14639	0.55929	1.78800	0.64116	1.55970
houses) Food, Groceries and	0.94279	1.06068	0.61161	1.63500	0.64872	1.54150
Rent ("B" Series)	0.89750	1.11420	0.57785	1.73060	0.64384	1.55320
Miscellaneous				• •	0.75412	1.32610
Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous						3330
("C" Series)					0.68715	I.4553

(a) November.

The results obtained by the method above will, of course, be only approximate, but the error will not be greater than one point in the unit figure.

5. Relative Population Weights for Towns,—Weighted averages for any combination of towns or States may be calculated approximately by multiplying the index-numbers\* of the towns or States to be included by their population weights, and dividing the sum of the products by the sum of the multipliers. The population weights used in the computations of these weighted averages for 1934 and succeeding years are as follows:—

Relative Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

				_					-10-0		
	New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		ralia.	Wester Australi		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney Newcastle Broken Hill Goulburn Bathurst Total	105 27 15	Melbourne Ballarat Bendigo Geelong W'nambool Total	38 29 39	Brisbane T'woomba Rockham'n †Townsville †Bundaberg  †Total	26 29 26	Adelaide Kadina,etc. Pt. Pirie Mt. Gamb'r Peterbor'gh Total	11 12 5	Perth, etc. Kalg'lie,etc Northam Bunbury Geraldton Total	17 5 5	Hobart Launceston Burnie Devonport Queenst'wn	4 5

 $<sup>\</sup>dagger$  Townsville and Bundaberg were substituted for Charters Towers (7) and Warwick (7) in the "five towns" tabulation in March Quarter, 1937.

The weights used are based on the 1933 Census results, and represent to the nearest 1,000 the actual population at that date.

These weights produce results which differ only very slightly from those obtained from the weights previously in use. The latter were based upon the 1921 Census results, and were last published in Labour Report No. 23.

<sup>\*</sup> The official index-numbers are calculated by operating on the "aggregates" of the towns concerned, a procedure which may produce slightly different results from the above.

# § 7. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index-Numbers.

- I. General.—The results of inquiries into price movements are available as follows:—
- (i) Monthly.—The Monthly Review of Business Statistics contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date.
- (ii) Quarterly.—A statement is issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter giving the "C" Series index-numbers for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters in respect of each of the 30 cities and towns originally adopted and for certain other towns, e.g., Canberra, for which "C" Series index-numbers are now compiled. The Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains the average prices of the items of food and groceries, for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. Particulars of movements in certain average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.
- (iii) Annual.—The Labour Report contains index-numbers over a number of past years, and the monthly and quarterly results for at least the last available year. The average prices for the last year of the items of food and groceries, and house rents, are also published in this Report. The Official Year Book also contains information similar to, but in less detail than, that published herein.
- 2. "C" Series Retail Price Index.—On pages 6-7 above is published a table of weighted averages of the six capital cities combined, of "C" Series index-numbers, together with index-numbers for the four main groups of items in the "C" Series Index for each year 1914 to 1952 and for the first two quarters of 1953.

In the pages immediately following are published:-

- (i) the "C" Series index-number for the last quarter of each of the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952 (page 19) and for the month of November of each of the years 1914 to 1920 (page 20), for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items;
- (ii) the "C" Series index-numbers for November, 1914, 1921 and 1922, the years 1923 to 1952, the September Quarter, 1939, and each quarter during the period March Quarter, 1947, to December Quarter, 1952, for each of the 30 towns, with the weighted averages of the 5 towns in each State, 30 towns and the six capital cities (pages 21-23);
- (iii) the "C" Series index-numbers for the years 1939 and 1942 to 1952 and the twelve quarters ended 31st December, 1952, for four additional towns not included in the weighted averages in (ii) above, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (page 24);
- (iv) "Group" index-numbers for each of the four groups of items in the "C" Series Index for places mentioned in (ii) above for November, 1914 and 1921, the years 1939 and 1945 to 1952 and the four quarters ended 31st December, 1952 (pages 25-27).

" C " Series Retail Price Index-Numbers (a) : Capital Cities. (Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27=1,000.)

	Per	riod.		Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capita (b)
				GR	OUP I.—I	FOOD AND	GROCERI	ES.		
Dec	Otr	. 1939		940	0.12	0	0.10			
,,	,,	1948			042	859	888	926	941	927
		1949		1,326	1,355	1,280	1,305	I,324	1,416	1,330
,,	3.9	1949		1,421	1,451	1,367	1,398	1,488	1,514	I,429
٠,	,,	1951		1,713	1,724	1,551	1,606	1,707	1,665	1,689
2.9	9.9			2,401	2,334	2,145	2,175	2,134	2,252	2,311
,,	,,,	1952		2,657	2,547	2,321	2,334	2,439	2,593	2,542
			GR	OUP II.—	Housing	(4 AND 5	-ROOMED	Houses).	(c)	
Dec	. Qtr.	1939		1,040	960	855	891	882	000	-6-
,,	,,	1948		1,047	974	866	905	890	930	969
,,	,,	1949		1,049	977	873			938	980
,,	,,	1950		1,050	977	898	914	897	941	983
,,	,,	1951		1,056	980		937	904	941	989
,,	,,	1952		1,188	985	947	960	1,073	1,057	1,013
,,,				1,100	903	967	1,132	1,190	1,092	I,092
	GROT	UPS I.	AND	II.—Foo	D, GROCE	ERIES AND	Housing	("B"	SERIES IN	DEX).
ec.	Qtr.	1939		977	947	855	887	007	007	
,,	22	1948		1,214	1,203	1,116		907	935	941
,,	,,	1949		1,273	1,263	1,171	1,146 1,206	1,152	1,226	1,190
,,	,,	1950		1,451	1,429	1,293		1,254	1,287	1,252
,,	,,	1951		1,871	1,801	1,673	1,341	1,390	1,379	1,412
,,	"	1952		2,078	I,032	1,788	1,696	1,715	1,781	1,800
"		-95"		2,070	1,952	1,700	1,860	1,946	2,002	1,971
					GROUP	III.—CLO	THING.			
ec.	Qtr.	1939		854	862	865	869	9.0	0.6	
,,	,,	1948		1,831	1,801	1,817	1,809	840	867	858
,,	,,	1949		2,161	2,117	2,072		1,835	1,807	1,818
,,	,,	1950		2,447	2,389		2,113	2,155	2,129	2,132
		1951		2,964	2,886	2,355	2,390	2,408	2,401	2,410
29	2.9					2,864	2,962	2,977	2,942	2,930
,,	,,	1952		3,214	3,162	3,088	3,171	3,172	3,142	3,177
				G	ROUP IV	.—Miscel	LANEOUS.			
ec.	Qtr.	1939		943	983	960	T 007			
,,	,,	1948		I,279	1,273	_	1,027	957	945	967
,,	"	1949		1,389	I,397	1,249	1,350	1,242	1,191	1,277
	"	1950		1,527	1,482	1,316	1,410	1,305	1,234	1,378
,,	,,	1951		1,836	1,789	1,418	I,555	1,374	1,383	I,492
		1952				1,694	1,802	1,720	1,744	I,794
,,	,,	1952	• •	2,024	2,076	1,897	2,100	2,023	2,003	2,035
				GROUPS	I. TO IV	7.—" C "	SERIES IN	DEX.		
ec.	Qtr.	1939		943	932	874	906	800		
,,	,,	1948		1,359	1,345	1,291	-	899	919	926
	,,	1949		I,486	I,472		I,327	1,316	I,344	1,341
	,,	1950		1,680	1,646	1,393	I,440	I,459	1,459	1,466
,,	7.7					1,546	1,608	1,607	1,601	1,643
, ,		1051								
,, ,,	"	1951 1952		2,100 2,312	2,033	1,934 2,089	1,990 2,188	1,989 2,225	2,024	2,042

"C" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers (a): Capital Cities.

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

1	Period.		Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitala. (Weighte Average)
			(	GROUP I.—	FOOD AND	GROCERIE	S.		
AT a ==			628	616	67.4	683	746	687	641
NOV.	1914		638		614		746		
2.2	1915		844	835	860	858	819	858	842
19	1916		833	791	748	835	854	807	812
11	1917		877	798	825	805	828	949	836
29	1918		877	843	882	862	816	918	861
**	1919		1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
,,	1920		1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209
			GROUP II	.—Housing	4 (4 AND 5	-ROOMED T	Touses).(	<i>b</i> )	1
Jov	1914		758	608	463	611	586	525	649
			780	611	472	574	581	571	659
11	1915		791	625	467	573	592	574	665
9.9	1916	• •				606	602	586	685
17	1917		797	657	492		619	614	
**	1918		832	699	526	656			722
**	1919		866 980	744 807	604 634	7º7 783	650 718	746 904	851
**	1920	. т		Food, Gro					
	GROUPS	5 1.	AND II.	I GRO	JERIES ANI	) IIOUSING	( D )	ERIES IN	I I
Vov	1914		680	613	560	658	689	630	644
	1915		825	756	722	758	734	756	777
"	1916		818	732	648	742	761	724	760
**			848	748	707	734	748	820	782
99	1917		861	792	756	789	746	810	812
19	1918		1,000	893	904	904	867	936	934
y \$1	1919		1,138	1,074	945	1,068	973	1,155	1,082
11	1920		1,130		P III.—CL		1 9/3	1 -,- 33	1 2,002
			1	GROU	P 111.—OL	OTHING.		1	1
Nov.	1914		755	780	657	756	698	825	754
	1915		805	797	690	821	760	833	793
19	1916		903	870	779	919	849	940	881
			1,009	976	899	1,049	980	1,041	992
9.9	TOTA								
**	1917		T TO2				_		
	1918		1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
"	1918		1,237	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135 1,277	I,200 I,344	1,097
,,	1918			1,103 1,213 1,422	I,025 I,192 I,274	1,066 1,303 1,384	1,135	1,200	1,097
"	1918		1,237	1,103 1,213 1,422	1,025	1,066 1,303 1,384	1,135 1,277	I,200 I,344	1,097
99 99 99 99	1918 1919 1920		I,237 I,323	1,103 1,213 1,422 GROUP	I,025 I,192 I,274 IV.—MISCE	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS.	1,135 1,277	1,200 1,344 1,430	1,097 1,238 1,365
Nov.	1918 1919 1920		1,237 1,323	I,103 I,213 I,422 GROUP 1	I,025 I,192 I,274 IV.—MISCE	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS.	1,135 1,277 1,359	1,200 1,344 1,430	1,097 1,238 1,365
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915		1,237 1,323 766 798	I,103 I,213 I,422 GROUP 3	I,025 I,192 I,274 IV.—MISCE 728 756	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS.	1,135 1,277 1,359 780 822	1,200 1,344 1,430	1,097 1,238 1,365
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916		1,237 1,323 766 798 808	1,103 1,213 1,422 GROUP 1 728 770 784	I,025 I,192 I,274 IV.—MISCE 728 756 766	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS. 770 803 832	780 822 869	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917		766 798 808 889	GROUP 3  728 770 784 879	1,025 1,192 1,274 IV.—MISCE 728 756 766 836	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS. 770 803 832 883	780 822 869 926	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918		766 798 808 889 988	728 770 784 879 950	1,025 1,192 1,274 IV.—MISCE 728 756 766 836 931	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS. 770 803 832 883 988	780 822 869 926 1,035	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919		7,66 7,98 8,08 8,89 9,88 1,059	728 770 784 879 950 1,016	728 756 766 836 931 968	770 803 832 883 988 1,035	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972 1,036
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181	728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139	770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209	728 770 784 879 950 1,016	728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139	770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972 1,036
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181	728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139	770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124	749 786 802 882 972 1,036 1,194
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920		766 798 808 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181 es I. to IV	728 728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139	1,066 1,303 1,384 ELLANEOUS.  770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200 SERIES INI	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124	749 786 802 882 972 1,036 1,194
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181 PS I. TO IV	7.28 7.56 7.66 8.36 9.31 9.68 1.139 7.— "C"	1,066 1,303 1,384  ELLANEOUS.  770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200  SERIES INI  699 780	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262 DEX. (c)	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124	749 786 802 882 972 1,036 1,194
Nov.	. 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181 88 I. TO IV	728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139 7.— "C"	1,066 1,303 1,384  ELLANEOUS.  770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200  SERIES INI 699 780 798	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,126 0EX. (c)	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972 1,036 1,194
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181 88 I. TO IV	1,025 1,192 1,274  IV.—MISCE  728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139 7.—"C"  611 721 698 773	1,066 1,303 1,384  ELLANEOUS.  770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200  SERIES INI 699 780 798 832	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262 DEX. (c)	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124 687 776 783 879	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972 1,036 1,194 687 782 795 847
Nov	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI 712 816 836 892 938	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181 88 I. TO IV	1,025 1,192 1,274  IV.—MISCE  728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139 7.— "C" 611 721 698 773 848	1,066 1,303 1,384  ELLANEOUS.  770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200  SERIES INI  699 780 798 832 887	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262 DEX. (c)	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124 687 776 783 879 923	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972 1,036 1,194 687 782 795 847 905
Nov.	1918 1919 1920 . 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920		766 798 808 889 988 1,059 1,209 GROUI	728 770 784 879 950 1,016 1,181 88 I. TO IV	1,025 1,192 1,274  IV.—MISCE  728 756 766 836 931 968 1,139 7.—"C"  611 721 698 773	1,066 1,303 1,384  ELLANEOUS.  770 803 832 883 988 1,035 1,200  SERIES INI 699 780 798 832	780 822 869 926 1,035 1,120 1,262 DEX. (c)	1,200 1,344 1,430 699 770 780 865 945 1,006 1,124 687 776 783 879	1,097 1,238 1,365 749 786 802 882 972 1,036

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) See footnote (b) on page 10. (c) See pages 21-23 for corresponding figures for years 1921 to 1952.

"C" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

		NE	w sou	TH WA	LES.				VIC	FORIA.		
Period.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam- bool.	Weighted Average,
Nov. 1914 (a) ,, 1921 ,, 1922 Year 1923 ,, 1924	712 1,046 1,021 1,023 1,002 1,016	1,041 967 992 967 986	975 933 958 930 972	1,033 983 1,024 1,039	947 893 924 917 935	1,042 1,011 1,018 997 1,012	671 1,003 963 1,004 976 984	992 936 924 896 914	1,002 935 937 901 913	1,019 982 966 933 950	1,034 914 956 960 942	1,003 960 996 968 977
,, 1926	1,033	1,010	988	1,050	978	1,030	998	931	933	984	946	992
,, 1927	1,029	1,015	1,000	1,062	952	1,027	990	922	940	985	945	985
,, 1928	1,042	1,014	997	1,074	964	1,038	992	929	936	973	941	987
,, 1929	1,073	1,028	1,018	1,108	979	1,067	1,017	957	969	980	960	1,011
,, 1930	1,026	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	909	926	917	939	951
,, 1931	922	888	882	922	867	918	846	808	833	822	860	843
,, 1932	867	840	834	877	820	863	813	776	808	794	838	811
,, 1933	832	819	806	843	801	830	789	760	789	772	812	787
,, 1934	842	834	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801
,, 1935	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	824	850	824
,, 1936	866	853	848	864	833	865	844	826	821	848	851	843
,, 1937	889	849	893	867	842	886	868	839	840	855	856	866
,, 1938	913	877	940	893	860	911	896	850	854	884	892	893
,, 1939	936	901	955	916	883	933	924	874	875	911	918	920
,, 1940	974	945	981	949	923	972	964	906	920	941	954	960
,, 1941 ,, 1942 ,, 1943 ,, 1944	1,028 1,107 1,151 1,144 1,142	997 1,069 1,109 1,094 1,100	1,049 1,132 1,172 1,179 1,192	1,005 1,087 1,125 1,118 1,114	974 1,050 1,091 1,088 1,091	1,026 1,104 1,147 1,140 1,139	1,008 1,100 1,139 1,135 1,135	950 1,037 1,084 1,083 1,086	963 1,054 1,096 1,101 1,099	984 1,065 1,110 1,112 1,113	998 1,078 1,126 1,129 1,139	1,004 1,095 1,135 1,131 1,131
,, 1946	1,165	1,119	1,216	1,134	1,116	1,162	1,149	1,094	1,107	1,124	1,153	1,14 <b>5</b>
,, 1947	1,212	1,167	1,257	1,177	1,162	1,208	1,188	1,132	1,141	1,170	1,186	1,18 <b>4</b>
,, 1948	1,318	1,279	1,376	1,291	1,277	1,315	1,294	1,243	1,244	1,278	1,283	1,290
,, 1949	1,439	1,402	1,528	1,426	1,403	1,437	1,415	1,365	1,365	1,397	1,398	1,411
,, 1950	1,593	1,543	1,692	1,578	1,552	1,591	1,565	1,509	1,520	1,549	1,558	1,561
,, 1951 ,, 1952	1,933 2,265	1,901 2,209	1,997 2,344	1,921	1,882	1,931 2,262	1,880 2,170	1,857	1,826	1,871 2,154	1,886	1,877 2,168
1939 Sept. Qtr.	933	897	943	914	881	930	918	875	868	909	918	915
1947 Mar. Qtr.	1,192	1,149	1,234	1,155	1,137	1,189	1,159	1,104	1,118	1,144	1,164	1,156
,, June ,,	1,194	1,150	1,237	1,160	1,147	1,191	1,175	1,123	1,130	1,161	1,175	1,171
,, Sept. ,,	1,218	1,169	1,258	1,183	1,169	1,214	1,189	1,132	1,139	1,170	1,185	1,185
,, Dec. ,,	1,242	1,199	1,298	1,211	1,196	1,239	1,227	1,170	1,177	1,203	1,219	1,223
1948 Mar. Qtr.	1,270	1,233	1,324	1,243	1,229	1,267	I,249	1,199	I,206	1,233	I,240	1,246
"June",	1,305	1,263	1,364	1,271	1,263	1,302	I,272	1,222	I,222	1,256	I,266	1,268
Sept. ",	1,337	1,296	1,396	1,309	1,298	1,334	I,309	1,256	I,256	1,296	I,297	1,305
Dec. ",	1,359	1,324	1,419	1,341	1,318	1,357	I,345	1,294	I,290	1,325	I,329	1,341
, June , Sept. , Dec. ,	1,391	1,352	1,461	1,380	1,358	1,389	1,363	1,315	1,314	I,344	1,349	1,359
	1,425	1,393	1,504	1,421	1,393	1,424	1,402	1,355	1,355	I,385	1,387	1,399
	1,452	1,413	1,554	1,434	1,411	1,451	1,422	1,369	1,366	I,401	1,404	1,417
	1,486	1,449	1,593	1,467	1,448	1,485	1,472	1,420	1,424	I,457	1,451	1,468
7950 Mar. Qtr.	1,515	1,473	1,614	1,495	1,475	1,513	1,501	1,456	1,462	1,493	1,483	1,498
,, June ,,	1,564	1,519	1,646	1,555	1,522	1,562	1,542	1,480	1,495	1,523	1,531	1,538
,, Sept. ,,	1,613	1,552	1,717	1,597	1,570	1,610	1,569	1,513	1,529	1,559	1,571	1,566
,, Dec. ,,	1,680	1,628	1,790	1,664	1,641	1,678	1,646	1,588	1,592	1,619	1,648	1,642
, June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	1,749	1,724	1,834	1,739	1,707	1,748	1,718	1,665	1,662	1,702	1,717	1,714
	1,875	1,853	1,939	1,858	1,825	1,874	1,839	1,825	1,771	1,845	1,823	1,837
	2,007	1,957	2,031	1,991	1,954	2,003	1,930	1,918	1,884	1,924	1,957	1,928
	2,100	2,071	2,182	2,096	2,040	2,099	2,033	2,019	1,987	2,014	2,048	2,030
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,167	2,115	2,246	2,148	2,094	2,164	2,059	2,045	2,025	2,050	2,083	2,058
,, June ,,	2,284	2,231	2,360	2,277	2,228	2,281	2,177	2,145	2,143	2,160	2,201	2,175
,, Sept. ,,	2,298	2,241	2,390	2,253	2,263	2,295	2,218	2,201	2,191	2,205	2,262	2,216
,, Dec. ,,	2,312	2,248	2,379	2,248	2,289	2,308	2,224	2,197	2,196	2,201	2,272	2,222

<sup>(</sup>a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, 8ee page 20.

"C" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns—continued. (Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

				(	QUEEN	SLAND				SO	UTH A	USTRA	LIA.	
]	Period.		Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock- hampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peter- borough.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
Nov.	1914 1921 1922 1923 1924	(a)	611 923 877 923 915 923	949 841 899 890 919	972 883 884 872 907	1,025b 865b 910b 903b 896b	994c 891c 910c 896c 903c	941 873 917 909 920	699 989 954 1,008 1,015 1,028	998 903 952 929 930	1,025 922 936 943 969	1,029 906 930 914 937	948 868 934 969	992 947 1,001 1,007
;; ;; ;;	1926 1927 1928 1929 1930		950 922 917 923 859	945 914 906 916 885	947 929 903 904 868	925b 918b 925b 939b 883b	951c 946c 914c 931c 882c	949 923 915 922 863	1,026 1,018 1,027 1,037 952	935 932 927 943 885	988 970 960 980 927	956 945 948 963 918	1,016 1,023 1,017 1,043 980	1,020 1,012 1,019 1,030 948
11	1931 1932 1933 1934 1935		798 764 751 762 780	816 788 778 785 785	806 779 752 759 776	827b 794b 762b 759b 789b	815c 777c 757c 761c 769c	801 768 753 764 780	837 802 789 806 820	801 772 747 758 763	834 791 762 778 789	831 816 800 800 809	884 848 832 832 833	836 801 787 804 817
)) )) )) ))	1936 1937 1938 1939 1940		804 837 852 870 908	802 840 843 858 898	802 840 853 867 905	810 <i>b</i> 883 902 918 950	779¢ 809 831 847 879	803 840 854 871 909	839 859 888 906 936	765 769 786 810 833	813 844 868 896 919	818 830 849 872 894	843 851 868 897 924	835 855 883 902
11 11 11 11	1941 1942 1943 1944 1945		963 1,033 1,072 1,071 1,072	951 1,033 1,080 1,085 1,087	959 1,032 1,073 1,074 1,079	1,004 1,075 1,114 1,117 1,114	938 1,015 1,057 1,057 1,054	964 1,035 1,075 1,075	988 1,075 1,102 1,098 1,102	882 962 998 995 999	976 1,057 1,087 1,081 1,085	946 1,024 1,061 1,064 1,070	974 1,053 1,087 1,087 1,093	983 1,069 1,093 1,093
27 29 27 27	1946 1947 1948 1949 1950		1,093 1,137 1,241 1,348 1,472	1,107 1,152 1,246 1,360 1,486	1,096 1,140 1,241 1,357 1,491	1,136 1,181 1,282 1,404 1,525	1,074 1,115 1,221 1,335 1,464	1,097 1,140 1,244 1,352 1,478	1,120 1,165 1,277 1,393 1,521	1,020 1,067 1,166 1,295 1,423	1,106 1,152 1,260 1,369 1,500	1,093 1,134 1,235 1,340 1,499	1,108 1,152 1,253 1,368 1,496	1,116 1,160 1,272 1,388 1,516
"	1951 1952	• • •	1,760 2,063	I,773 2,083	1,785	1,818	1,754 2,056	1,767 2,072	1,833 2,159	I,742 2,077	1,811	1,863 2,145	1,808	1,829
1939	Sept.	Qtr.	866	853	861	912	843	867	903	812	897	866	896	899
1947	Mar. June Sept. Dec.	2.2	1,123 1,125 1,136 1,163	1,139 1,141 1,153 1,175	1,126 1,129 1,142 1,163	1,172 1,169 1,181 1,201	1,107 1,108 1,111 1,132	1,127 1,129 1,140 1,165	1,137 1,154 1,169 1,198	1,041 1,061 1,072 1,095	1,125 1,142 1,156 1,185	1,113 1,121 1,137 1,163	1,124 1,143 1,159 1,181	1,133 1,150 1,16
1948	Mar. June Sept. Dec.	17	1,193 1,227 1,251 1,291	1,199 1,232 1,260 1,292	1,191 1,225 1,259 1,290	1,230 1,263 1,300 1,335	1,165 1,203 1,241 1,276	1,195 1,229 1,256 1,294	1,226 1,262 1,293 1,327	1,124 1,150 1,181 1,207	1,215 1,244 1,273 1,308	I,197 I,223 I,250 I,271	1,213 1,238 1,266 1,295	I,222 I,257 I,288 I,321
1949 ,,	Mar. June Sept. Dec.	,,	1,295 1,338 1,364 1,393	I,304 I,349 I,377 I,408	1,307 1,349 1,373 1,399	1,356 1,397 1,418 1,444	1,287 1,327 1,352 1,374	1,300 1,343 1,368 1,397	1,347 1,377 1,408 1,440	1,241 1,290 1,309 1,340	1,322 1,356 1,381 1,416	1,291 1,331 1,354 1,382	1,317 1,352 1,382 1,419	I,34 I,37 I,40 I,43
1950	Mar. June Sept. Dec.		1,414 1,446 1,482 1,546	1,429 1,455 1,496 1,562	1,428 1,461 1,497 1,577	1,469 1,506 1,528 1,595	I,40I I,437 I,47I I,548	1,419 1,451 1,487 1,553	1,456 1,492 1,527 1,608	1,359 1,397 1,431 1,503	1,433 1,468 1,501 1,597	1,405 1,452 1,516 1,622	1,435 1,475 1,501 1,571	1,451 1,487 1,523 1,604
., ,, ,,	Mar. June Sept. Dec.	"	1,612 1,698 1,796 1,934	1,623 1,705 1,821 1,944	1,631 1,739 1,819 1,950	1,651 1,752 1,861 2,006	1,607 1,706 1,792 1,911	1,616 1,706 1,804 1,940	1,657 1,790 1,894 1,990	1,556 1,658 1,829 1,924	1,634 1,749 1,897 1,965	1,674 1,820 1,935 2,022	1,621 1,755 1,881 1,974	1,65; 1,78; 1,89; 1,98
1952 ,, ,,	Mar. June Sept. Dec.		2,006 2,064 2,094 2,089	2,022 2,093 2,107 2,110	2,033 2,090 2,112 2,128	2,082 2,142 2,175 2,194	2,008 2,052 2,078 2,086	2,014 2,072 2,101 2,100	2,052 2,170 2,225 2,188	1,983 2,091 2,129 2,104	2,030 2,151 2,201 2,158	2,062 2,158 2,187 2,174	2,023 2,152 2,186 2,155	2,049 2,166 2,220 2,18

<sup>(</sup>a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick.

"C" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns-continued. (Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

		WEST	ERN A	USTR	ALIA.				TASM	ANIA.				
Period.	Ferth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Dewonport	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, 5 Towns.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914(a) ,, 1921 ,, 1922	1,008	1,048 964	b 1,030 958	 1,045 968	1,056 970	941	687 1,070 997	 1,067 976	c1,003	d904 d798	 1,031 944	 1,057 <b>9</b> 75	687 1,013 975	1,013 967
Year 1923 ,, 1924 ,, 1925	977 982 994	1,006	965 969 1,008	962 983 985	1,012	981 986 996	1,042 1,051 1,028	985 985 968	971 968 952	956 950 941	968 954 978	I,016 I,020 I,002	1,003 987 997	996 980 991
,, 1926 ,, 1927 ,, 1928 ,, 1929 ,, 1930	992 984 1,012 1,026 977	1,002 984 995 1,032 986	998 988 1,003 1,022 969	978 963 963 978 966	1,012 1,010 1,029 1,051	994 985	1,035 998 980 1,000 956	973 953 957 967 949	957 936 941 966 918	948 925 909 948 920	956 932 934 972 949	1,007 977 966 986 951	1,011 1,002 1,009 1,033 975	1,006 997 1,003 1,026 971
,, 1931 ,, 1932 ,, 1933 ,, 1934 ,, 1935	885 840 811 830 834	940 937 975	878 844 814 825 829	877 842 824 843 865	951 904 851	891 852 825 842 848	875 844 825 837 849	865 832 817 828 834	837 811 775 780 792	831 800 773 787 801	881 875 867 876 873	869 838 820 831 841	873 830 804 817 832	870 829 803 816 831
, 1936 , 1937 , 1938 , 1939 , 1940	856 869 882 901 932	1,027	860 890 900 915 947	880 897 914 936 962	933 970 957 965 990	870 884 897 915 946	860 8 <b>7</b> 5 <b>8</b> 87 908 945	840 856 872 888 926	814 854 865 879 917	809 833 848 861 896	850 857 875 903 936	850 866 879 898 936	850 873 897 920 957	848 871 894 917 954
,, 1941 ,, 1942 ,, 1943 ,, 1944 ,, 1945	993 1,061 1,104 1,105 1,107	1,165	1,017 1,079 1,111 1,113	1,018 1,065 1,102 1,110 1,115	1,055 1,114 1,165 1,176		1,001 1,078 1,117	974 1,040 1,078 1,067	971 1,035 1,088 1,065 1,063	951 1,012 1,058 1,040 1,045	987 1,045 1,096 1,102	989 1,060 1,101 1,089	1,008 1,091 1,131 1,126	1,006 1,087 1,127 1,122 1,123
,, 1946 ,, 1947 ,, 1948 ,, 1949	1,127 1,161 1,264 1,410 1,538	1,223 1,265 1,368 1,502 1,636	I,133 I,171 I,272 I,420	1,136 1,173 1,277 1,424 1,559	1,187 1,221 1,327 1,475 1,611	1,136 1,170 1,273 1,418 1,547	1,138 1,178 1,292 1.419 1,526	1,099 1,147 1,254 1,389 1,493	1,093 1,132 1,232 1,367 1,484	1,079 1,119 1,220 1,351 1,481	1,139 1,179 1,280 1,406 1,494	1,121 1,164 1,274 1,104 1,511	1,145 1,188 1,295 1,415 1,560	1,142 1,185 1,292 1,413 1,556
,, 1951 ,, 1952	1,860 2,170	1,940 2,262		1,870			1,861 2,180	1,857	1,810	1,793 2,003	1,808	1,852 2,163	1,883 2,196	1,880 2,193
1939— Sept. Qtr. 1947—	904	1,069	919	939	966	918	905	886	878	860	902	896	916	914
Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,.	1,136 1,151 1,167 1,189	1,239 1,253 1,270 1.297	1,145 1,160 1,177 1,200	1,149 1,163 1,180 1,201	1,196 1,209 1,229 1,251	1,145 1,160 1,176 1,199	1,152 1,158 1,187 1,216	1,119 1,133 1,153 1,183	1,106 1,115 1,139 1,167	1,094 1,105 1,126 1,149	1,153 1,163 1,188 1,213	I,137 I,147 I,172 I,201	1,165 1,174 1,192 1,221	1,162 1,171 1,189 1,218
Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	1,221 1,238 1,282 1,316	1,331 1,342 1,383 1,415	1,227 1,248 1,289 1,322	1,232 1,249 1,298 1,327	1,280 1,300 1,344 1,383		I,240 I,276 I,307 I,344	1,208 1,241 1,267 1,301	1,188 1,218 1,243 1,279	I,172 I,213 I,237 I,259	1,237 1,267 1,292 1,325	1,225 1,260 1,288 1,324	1,248 1,278 1,311 1,341	1,245 1,275 1,308 1,338
Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	1,338 1,406 1,435 1,459	I,44I I,498 I.525 I,544	1,347 1,419 1,446 1,467	I,355 I,421 I,447 I,472	1,411 1,472 1,494 1,521	1,348 1,414 1,443 1,467	1,379 1,412 1,425 1,459	1,346 1,385 1,398 1,425	1,323 1,355 1,382 1,406	1,306 1,337 1,364 1,398	1,361 1,395 1,407 1,436	1,363 1,397 1,411 1,443	1,364 1,403 1,428 1,466	1,362 1,401 1,425 1,463
1950— Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	1,479 1.517 1,547 1,607	1,571 1,616 1,652 1,706	1,494 1,532 1,561 1,614	I,499 I,532 I,573 I,633	1,546 1,590 1,623 1,686	1,487 1,526 1,557 1,617	1,455 1,501 1,547 1,601	1,424 1,465 1,513 1,569	1,417 1,459 1,492 1,566	1,413 1,454 1,487 1,571	1,431 1,471 1,518 1,555	1,441 1,485 1,531 1,587	1,491 1,534 1,572 1,643	1,488 1,530 1,568 1,639
Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	1,712 1,827 1,911 1,989	1,782 1,906 1,995 2,078	1,732 1,842 1,915 1,991	1,719 1,825 1,923 2,012	1,809 1,921 2,002 2,090	1,720 1,835 1,919 1,998	1,676 1,811 1,931 2,024	1,668 1,788 1,955 2,015	1,640 1,742 1,888 1,969	1,630 1,723 1.877 1,942	1,617 1,728 1,898 1,988	1,668 1,794 1,933 2,014	1,713 1,833 1,943 2,042	1,710 1,830 1,940 2,040
Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	2,080 2,158 2,216 2,225	2,164 2,251 2,309 2,324	2,070 2,180 2,239 2,253	2,106 2,178 2,242 2,255	2,169 2,285 2,355 2,364	2,088 2,168 2,227 2,236	2,080 2,159 2,231 2,248	2,059 2,138 2,208 2,211	2,025 2,109 2,175 2,170	1,992 2,079 2,149 2,152	2,040 2,112 2,158 2,167	2,066 2,145 2,215 2,226	2,098 2,206 2,238 2,243	2,096 2,203 2,235 2,239

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (b) Midland Junction. (c) Zeehan. (d) Beaconsfield.

# Retail Price Index-Numbers : Group (a), "B" Series and "C" Series, Additional Towns not included in Weighted Average, Thirty Towns.

(Rase of each "Group", &c.: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

(Base of each "C	ноир	, & 0.										
		1	1		1	A	1	1 = . 0	1 2010	1	1	1
Town.	1939.	1942.		1	1	1		1940.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952
7 - 1-1- 01-1	960	0.58						I T.223	1.360	LT.484	1 т.88т	2,37
Warwick, Qld Port Augusta, S.A		1.001				1,067	1,130	1,284	1,414	1,592	2,034	2,500
Whyalla, S.A							1,173	1,320	1,439	1,617	2,080	2,52
Canberra, A.C.T	1,057	1,142	1,133	11,108						1,634	2,155	2,74
	G	ROUP I	I.—Ho	USING (	4 AND	5-ROOMI						
Warwick, Qld	667	702	730	737	740	745	751	756	763	772	781	80
Port Augusta, S.A	665	690	688	701	715	718	722	725	729		782	93
Whyalla, S.A	083	985	986	986	987	988	988	989	990	993	1,003	1,00
			OD. GE	COCERTE	S AND	Housin	g (" B	" SERIE	S INDE	x).		
Varwick, Qld			872	886	891	1 904	956	1,039	1,124	1,203	1,448	11,75
Port Augusta, S.A	864	932	914	914	925	929	968	1,063	1,144	1,260	1,541	1,84
Vhyalla, S.A			T 077	T 058	T 050	T 062			1,170	1,284		1,89
Janberra, A.C.T	1,020	1,070						1 2,191	1 2,200	1 1,301	. 1,701	1 2,00
											66.	1000
Warwick, Qld	857	1,292	1,427		1,419	1,404		1,788	2.007		2,002	3,01
Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A.	051						1,584	1,757	1,986	2,255	2,735	3,12
Canberra, A.C.T	852	1,334	1,508	1,485	1,468	1,550	1,607	1,826	2,117	2,431	1 2,893	3,16
No.			GRO	UP IV	-MISCE	LLANEO	US.					
Varwick, Qld	1,009	1,159	1,213	1,215	1,214	1,218	1,235	1,287	1,359	1,431	1,667	1,93
Port Augusta, S.A	993	1,172	1,209	1,210	1,210	1,212	1,250	1,318	1,374	1,440	1,078	1,96
Whyalla, S.A Canberra, A.C.T	868	1,016	1,082	1,078	1,077	1,080	1,122	1,192	1,251	1,340	1,551	1,77
/andcira, moral		G	ROUPS		-" C "	SERIES	INDEX					
Warwick, Qld	1 824			-					11,349	1,461	11,751	2,06
Port Augusta, S.A	883	1,052	1,076	1,076	1,084	1,105	1,157	1,267	1,373	1,512	1,823	2,14
								T クケケ		TETE	I T 848	2,16
Whyalla, S.A	0.56		× 168	T 752	T T40	T T70			T 456	1,515		
Whyalla, S.A	956	1,121	1,168	1,153	1,149	1,170	1,175	1,327	1,456	1,600	1,931	
Whyalla, S.A	956	1,121	1,168						1,456	1,600		
Whyalla, S.A	956					Y.	1,210		1,379	1,600	1,931	
Whyalla, S.A	Mar.	June	50.	QUA	Mar.	Y.  19  June	51.   Sept.	1,327 Dec.	1,456	19 June	1,931  52.   Sept.	2,24
Whyalla, S.A Janberra, A.C.T		19	50.   Sept.   Qtr.	QUA	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	51.   Sept.   Qtr.	1,327	1,456	19	52.	2,24
Whyalla, S.A Canberra, A.C.T	Mar. Qtr.		2,24									
Whyalla, S.A	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr. GROUP	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.   Otr.   Ot	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.  GROOT	51.   Sept.   Qtr.   ERIES.	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	19 June Qtr.	1,931   52.   Sept.   Qtr.	Dec   Qtr
Warwick, Qld.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	50.   Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     1.—F0   1,577   1,724	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772  1,904	51.   Sept.   Qtr.   ERIES.   1,943   2,151	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	52.   Sept.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632	2,24;
Town.  Warwick, Qld. Oort Augusta, S.A	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	50. Sept. Qtr. GROUP 1,491 1,602 1,611	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     I.—Fo	Mar. Qtr. 00D AND 1,642 1,790 1,863	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,904 1,957	51.   Sept.   Qtr.   ERIES.   1,943   2,151   2,173	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637	2,24
Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	50.   Sept. Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1.—Ho	QUA  Dec. Qtr. 1.—F0  1,577 1,724 1,757 1,781	Mar. Qtr. 00D AND 1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967	51.   Sept.   Qtr. ERIES.   1,943   2,151   2,173   2,290	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637	2,24
Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A Canberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.   1,444   1,535   1,558   1,562   ROUP I   763	50.   Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   I.—H0   781	QUA Dec. Qtr. 1.—F0 1.577 1,724 1,757 1,781 USING (	Mar. Qtr. 00D AND 1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 1,781	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967 5-ROOM  781	51.   Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   1,943   2,151   2,173   2,290   ED HOU	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	19 June Qtr.	1,931   52.   Sept.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637   2,826	2,24   De   Qts   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A  Warwick, Qid. Augusta, S.A  Sanberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.  1,422 1,506 1,543 1,539 G	June Qtr.   1,444   1,535   1,558   1,562   ROUP I   763	50.   Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   I.—H0   781	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     1.—Fo     1,757     1,757     1,758     USING (   781     762	Mar. Qtr. 00D AND 1,863 1,878 4 AND 781 763	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967 5-ROOM  781	51.   Sept.   Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     Qtr.     2,151     2,173     2,290     781     795	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483   38E8).(b)   781   800	Mar. Qtr.    2,311	June Qtr.    2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831	52.   Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637   2,826	2,24   De   Qts   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Warwick, Qld. Warwick, Qld. Warwick, Qld.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   G   763   739   773	June Qtr.  1,444 1,535 1,558 1,562 ROUP I 763 739 773	50.   Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   I.—Ho   781   756   773	QUA Dec. Qtr. 1.—Fo 1.577 1,724 1,757 1,781 USING (	Mar. Qtr.  ODD AND  1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 763 773	June Qtr.  GROOM  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967 5-ROOM  781 770 773	51.   Sept.   Qtr.   ERIES.   1,943   2,151   2,173   2,290   781   795   930	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483   38ES).(b)   781   800   930	Mar. Qtr.    2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930	1,600   June   Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828	52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412	2,247
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Nyhyalla, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422	June Qtr.    1,444   1,535   1,558   1,562   ROUP I   763   739   773   990	50.   Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1.—Ho   781   756   773   991	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     I.—F0     1,757     1,757     1,781     781     762     773     1,002	Mar. Qtr.  ODD AND  1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 763 773 1,002	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967 7,967 773 1,003	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     ERIES   2,151   2,173   2,290     781   795   930   1,003	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483   38ES).(b)   781   800   930   1,003	Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003	1,600   June   Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004	52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412	Dec Qts   2,39, 2,45; 2,51; 2,75;   80 83 93;
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A  Warwick, Qid. Fort Augusta, S.A  GROU	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539	June Qtr.    1,444	Sept. Qtr. GROUP 1,491 1,602 1,611 1,654 1.—Ho 781 756 773 991 DD, GROUP 1,612 1,613 1,614	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     I.—Fo     1,777     1,757     1,757     1,781     781     762     773     1,002     00CERIES	Mar. Qtr.  OOD AND  1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 781 763 773 1,002	June Qtr.  GROOT  GROOT  J.772 1,904 1,957 1,967  5-ROOM  781 770 773 1,003  IOUSING	51.   Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   Qtr.   Sept.   Qtr.   Sept.   Sept.   Qtr.   Sept.	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     880   930   1,003     SERIES	Mar. Qtr.    2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579     804   826   930   1,003   3 INDEX	19 June Qtr.    2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   ().	1,931   52.   Sept.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,826   804   832   930   1,004	2,24   Dec   Qts   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   93   1,00
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Warwick, Qid. Sanberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Ort Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A Ganberra, A.C.T.  Ground Augusta, S.A  Ground Augusta, S.A  Warwick, Qid.  Ground Augusta, S.A	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539     763   739   773   990     UPS II   1,162	June Qtr.  1,444 1,535 1,558 1,562 ROUP I 763 739 773 990 1.—Foo	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1.—Ho   756   773   991   0D, GRUDO   1,211   1,268   1,2	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     1.577     1,757     1,781     781     762     773     1,002     00CERIES	Mar. Qtr. Qtr. 1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 781 1,702 AND H 1,303 1,385	June Qtr.  GROCI 1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967 5-ROOMI 773 1,003 IOUSING	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     Qtr.     ERIES.	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     SERIE:   1,621   1,705	I,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   I,003   S INDEX	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   X).	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637   2,826   804   832   930   1,004	2,24   De Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   1,00
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Ort Augusta, S.A. Grot Augusta, S.A. Whyalla, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Grot Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Whyalla, S.A.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422	June Qtr.    1,444	50.   Sept. Qtr. Qtr.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654     I.—H0   781   756   773   991     DD, GR.   1,211   1,268   1,280	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     J. Fo   1,577     1,724     1,757     1,781     USING (   781     762     773     1,002     0CERIES     1,263     1,345     1,345     1,357     1,369	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.   1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878     4 AND   763   773   1,002     AND I   1,303   1,308   1,308   1,308   1,434   1,436	June Qtr.  GROOD  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967 5-ROOM  781 770 773 1,003  IOUSING  1,382 1,457 1,491	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     1,943     2,151     2,173     2,290     781     795     930     1,033     ("B"     1,486     1,617     1,683     1,687	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483   781   800   930   1,003   SERIER   1,621   1,775	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003   S INDEX	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   (1),63   1,892   1,926	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637   2,826   804   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,961	2,24   De Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   93   1,00
Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Ort Augusta, S.A. Grot Augusta, S.A. Whyalla, S.A. Janberra, A.C.T.  Grot Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Whyalla, S.A.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422	June Qtr.    1,444	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654     I.—H0   781   756   773   991     DD, GR   1,211   1,268   1,280   1,392	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     1.—F0     1.757     1,757     1,781     781     782     773     1,002     1,263     1,345     1,345     1,369     1,473	Mar. Qtr.  ODD ANI  1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 781 763 773 1,002 AND I  1,303 1,385 1,434 1,532	June Qtr.  GROOD  1,772 1,964 1,957 1,967 5-ROOM  781 770 773 1,003  IOUSING  1,382 1,457 1,491 1,587	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     1,943     2,151     2,173     2,290     781     795     930     1,063     1,683     1,783     1,783	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483   781   800   930   1,003   SERIER   1,621   1,775	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003   S INDEX	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   (1),63   1,892   1,926	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637   2,826   804   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,961	2,24   De   Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   93   1,00
Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Canberra, A.C.T.  GROU Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Canberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539     763   773   9773   917   1,162   1,204   1,239   1,322	19 June Qtr.    1,444   1,535   1,558   1,562	50.    Sept.   Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     GROUF     1,491     1,652     1,611     1,554     775     773     991     1,268     1,280     1,280     1,392     (	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     1.—F0     1.,577     1,724     1,757     7,781     781     782     773     1,002     1,263     1,345     1,345     1,345     1,347     347	Mar. Qtr. ODD AND I,642 I,790 I,863 I,878 4 AND 781 703 773 I,002 AND I I,303 I,385 I,4344 I,532 III.—C:	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,904 1,957 1,967  5-ROOM  781 773 1,003  IOUSING  1,382 1,457 1,491 1,587	51.    Sept. Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     (Qtr.     (Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     SERIES   1,705   1,776   1,901	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   S INDEX   1,761   1,869   1,959   1,959	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   0,004   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,637   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109	Det
Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  GROU Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  GROU Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Warwick, Qid. Warwick, Qid. Warwick, Qid.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539     763   739   773   990     UPB II   1,162   1,239   1,232     1,293   1,322	19 June Qtr.    1,444   1,535   1,558   1,558   1,558   1,562   1,562   1,562   1,763   773   990   1.—F0(1,175   1,221   1,249   1,336   2,175   1,751   1,249   1,336   2,175   1,751   1,249   1,336   2,175   1,215   1,249   1,336   2,175   1,249   1,349   1,249   1,349   1,249   1,349   1,249   1,349   1,249   1,349   1,249   1,349   1,249   1,249   1,349   1,24	50.    Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   I.—Ho   756   773   991   0D, GR   1,211   1,268   1,280   1,392   (2,229	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     J.   For     1,577     1,724     1,757     1,781     1,981     1,981     1,002     1,263     1,345     1,345     1,347     3,349     2,312     2,382	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.   1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878   4 AND   781   763   773   1,002   1,303   1,385   1,434   1,532   1,1434   1,1434	June Qtr.  GROOD  1,772 1,964 1,957 1,967 5-ROOM  781 770 773 1,003  IOUSING  1,382 1,457 1,491 1,587	51.    Sept. Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     (Qtr.     (Qtr.	Dec.   Qtr.	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003   8   India   In	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   (1),63   1,892   1,926	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109	Dee   Qtu
Town.  To	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   G   763   739   773   990     UPB I1   1,162   1,204   1,239   1,322     2,093   2,153   2,153   2,153   2,109	June Qtr.    1,444	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,652   1,617   1,654   1,756   773   991   1,212   1,280   1,280   1,392   1,280   1,392   2,287   2,287   2,287   2,287   2,287	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.   1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878   1,902   1,902   1,902   1,902   1,10	June Qtr.  Grading Gra	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     Sept.   Qtr.     1,943   2,151   2,173   2,290     781   793   1,003     ("B"   1,486   1,617   1,683   1,7	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     800   1,003     SERIER   1,725   1,776   1,901     2,858   2,957   2,927   2,925   2,92	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003   3 INDEX   1,718   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,968   2,96	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   801   1,763   1,926   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137	52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412	2,24   Dec Qti   2,399
Town.  To	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   763   739   773   990   1,1239   1,239   1,239   1,239   1,239   1,239   1,239   2,093   2,153   2,153	June Qtr.    1,444   1,535   1,558   1,562	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1,654   1,756   773   991   1,211   1,280   1,280   1,280   1,280   1,282   2,287   2,287   2,281   2,466	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.   1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878   4 AND   781   763   773   1,002   1,385   1,434   1,532   11.—Cl	June Qtr.  GROOD  1,772 1,994 1,957 1,967 773 1,003  IOUSING 1,382 1,497 1,491 1,587 1,491 1,587  OTHING 2,677 2,721 2,917	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     ERIES.   1,943   2,151   2,173   2,290     781   795   930   1,003   ("B"   1,486   1,683   1,783   1,783   1,783   1,783   1,783   1,785   2,825   2,974	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     1,621   1,705   1,776   1,901      2,858   2,955	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003   INDEZ   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,913   2,968	1,600   June   Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   (1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   (3,014   3,089   3,	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109	2,24   Dec Qti   2,399
Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Grot Mugusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Grot Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A  Grot Augusta, S.A  Grot Augusta, S.A  Grot Augusta, S.A  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A  Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   G   763   739   773   990     UPB I1   1,162   1,204   1,239   1,322     2,093   2,153   2,153   2,153   2,109	June Qtr.    1,444	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   I.—HO   781   756   773   991   0DD, GROUP   1,211   1,280   1,280   1,392   (2,287   2,281   2,466   GROUP   2,466   GROUP   GR	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.	Mar. Qtr. ODD ANI    1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878   4 AND   781   763   773   1,002     AND   I   1,303   1,385   1,434   1,532     HI(C)   2,449   2,447   -(3,637 -Miscie	June Qtr.  GROOD  GROOD  1,772 1,967 1,967 1,967 773 1,003  IOUSING 1,457 1,491 1,587 0OTHING 2,677 2,721 2,917 ELLANEO	Sept. Qtr. Qtr. Pseudon Sept. Qtr. Sept. Qtr. Sept. Qtr. Sept. Qtr. Sept. Qtr. Sept. Qtr. Sept. Sept. Qtr. Sept. S	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     1,003   SERIER   1,705   1,776   1,901     2,858   2,955   2,927   3,045	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   3   INDEX   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,968   2,968   2,969   3,082   3,082   3,082   3,082   3,082   3,082   3,082	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137   3,147	1,931   52.   Sept.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   804   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,044   3,150   3,171   3,183	2,39   2,39   2,45   2,45   2,75   2,75   3,09   2,06   3,19   3,09   3,19   3,25
Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Wanylla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Warwick, Qld. Whyalla, S.A Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Whyalla, S.A Janberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539     763   739   773   990     1,162   1,204   1,239   1,322   1,232   2,153   2,109   2,310     1,392   1,3	June   Qtr.	50.    Sept. Qtr. GROUP   1,491   1,002   1,611   1,054   1,756   773   991   1,216   1,268   1,289   1,289   2,287   2,281   2,466   GRO   1,441	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     J.   For     J.   For     J.   For     J.   For     J.   For     J.   J.     J.   J.     J.   J.     J.   J.	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.  GROOM  1,772 1,903 1,957 1,967 770 770 773 1,003  GUSING  1,382 1,457 1,491 1,587  GOTHING  2,640 2,640 2,677 2,721 2,917  ELLANEO 1,1603	51.    Sept. Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     (Qtr.     (Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     SERIES   1,621   1,705   1,776   1,901     2,858   2,952   2,927   3,045   1,780	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   8   Input	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137   3,147	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,150   3,171   3,183	2,24   De Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   1,00   1,76   1,81   1,81   1,82   2,06   3,19   3,22   3,25   1,27   1,
Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Grot Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Grot Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   1,539   1,543   1,539   1,543   1,543   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,255   1,352   1,352   1,352   1,355   1	June Qtr.    1,444	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1,654   1,258   1,280   1,321   2,281   2,281   2,466   GRO   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,449   1,441   1,	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.   1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878     4 AND   781   763   773   1,002     1,303   1,385   1,434   1,532     1,434   1,532   11.—Cl	June Qtr.  GROOD  GROOD  1,772 1,996 1,997 1,967 1,967 1,967 1,967 1,491 1,587 1,491	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     ERIES.   1,943   2,151   2,173   2,290       781   795   930   1,003       1,486   1,683   1,783       2,751   2,825   2,974       1,703   1,703   1,703	Dec.   Qtr.	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   804   826   930   1,003   I,718   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,968   2,968   2,968   2,968   3,082   1,811   1,843	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   3,089   3,137   3,147	1,931   52.   Sept.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,171   3,183   2,003   2,003   2,003   2,003	2,24   De   Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   1,00   1,76   1,81   1,89   2,06   3,19   3,19   3,22   3,22   3,25 
Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A	Mar. Qtr.    1,422	19 June Qtr.  1,444 1,535 1,558 1,562 ROUP I 763 763 990 1.—F00 1,175 1,221 1,249 1,336	50.    Sept. Qtr.     GROUP     1,491     1,602     1,611     1,052     756     773     991     DD, GROUP     1,212     1,268     1,280     2,287     2,281     2,466     GROUP     1,441     1,449     1,395	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     1.—FC     1.577     1.781     762     773     762     1.473     1.345     1.345     1.345     1.345     1.345     1.345     1.345     1.35	Mar. Qtr.  OOD AND  1,642 1,790 1,863 1,878 4 AND 781 763 773 1,002 AND H 1,303 1,385 1,434 1,532 HI.—C) 2,400 2,449 2,467 2,637 —MISCH 1,580 1,547 1,494	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772 1,967 1,967 1,967 5-ROOM  781 770 773 1,003 1,003 1,382 1,457 1,491 1,587  COTHING 2,640 2,677 2,721 2,917 LLANEO  1,663 1,663 1,656 1,663	51.  Sept. Qtr. Qtr. 2,151 2,173 2,290 ED HOU 781 795 930 1,003 1,486 1,617 1,683 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,779 1,887 1,	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     SERIES   1,621   1,705   1,776   1,901     2,858   2,952   2,927   3,045   1,780	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   8   Input	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137   3,147	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,150   3,171   3,183	De Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   3,19   2,06   1,76   3,22   3,25   2,01   1,96   1,96   1,96   1,96   1,96
Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Ganberra, A.C.T.  Grot Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Canberra, A.C.T.  Grot Augusta, S.A Grot Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Whyalla, S.A. Canberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld. Port Augusta, S.A Canberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   1,539   1,543   1,539   1,543   1,543   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,254   1,255   1,255   1,255   2,159   2,310   1,392   1,386   1,392   1	June Qtr.    1,444	50.    Sept. Qtr. GROUP   1,491   1,002   1,611   1,054   1,054   1,054   1,054   1,054   1,054   1,216   1,216   1,216   1,242   1,245   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,256   1,338   1,388   1,38	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     J.   For     J.   For     J.   For     J.   For     J.   J.     J.   J.     J.   J.     J.   J.	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.  GROOT  1,772  1,967  1,975	51.  Sept. Qtr. Qtr. 2,151 2,173 2,290 ED HOU 781 795 930 1,003 1,486 1,617 1,683 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783 1,783	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     Series   1,621   1,705   1,776   1,901      2,858   2,955   2,927   3,045     1,780	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   1,718   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,913   2,968   2,969   3,082   1,811   1,843   1,796   1,843   1,843   1,796   1,843   1,843   1,796   1,843   1,84	1,600   June   Qtr.	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   Qtr.   2,412    2,632    2,637    2,826   832    930    1,004   1,780    1,924    1,966    2,109    3,150    3,171    3,183    3,183    2,003    2,005    1,970	De Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   3,19   2,06   1,76   3,22   3,25   2,01   1,96   1,96   1,96   1,96   1,96
Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Wanberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A GROU Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539     763   739   773   990     UPS I1   1,162   1,239   1,322     2,093   2,153   2,159   2,310     1,392   1,386   1,342   1,300	June   Qtr.	50.    Sept. Qtr. GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1,753   991   1,218   1,280   1,212   1,214   1,246   1,246   1,246   1,246   1,246   1,392   1,246   1,449   1,395   1,388   ROUPS	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     I.   For     I.   For	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.  GROOM  1,772 1,903 1,957 1,967 773 1,003  IOUSING  1,382 1,491 1,587 I,491 1,587  LILANEO  1,656 1,666 1,664 1,538  SERIES	51.    Sept. Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     (Qtr.     (Q	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     SERIES   1,776   1,901   1,901   1,901   1,901   1,901   1,780   1,780   1,780   1,780   1,780   1,730   1,662	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   8   INDES   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,913   2,968   2,969   3,082   1,811   1,843   1,796   1,663   1,663	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   0.   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137   3,147   1,910   1,972   1,921   1,799	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,150   3,171   3,183   2,003   2,025   1,929   1,829	2,24   De Qts   2,439   2,452   2,511   2,75   1,766   1,811   1,89   2,06   3,09   3,19   3,22   3,25   1,00   1,812   1,916   1,91
Town.  Town.  Town.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Danberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Danberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Danberra, A.C.T.  GROU  Warwick, Qid. Port Augusta, S.A. Danberra, A.C.T.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539   1,543   1,539   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,545   1,239   1,322   1,386   1,342   1,300   1,406   1,506   1,506   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,506   1,506   1,506   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,506   1,506   1,506   1,406   1,406   1,506   1,506   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,506   1,506   1,506   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,406   1,506   1	19 June Qtr.    1,444   1,535   1,558   1,558   1,558   1,558   1,552   1,558   1,552   1,211   1,249   1,336   1,432   1,377   1,327   1,377   1,327	50.    Sept.   Qtr.   GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1,753   991   1,218   1,280   1,392   1,280   1,392   1,441   1,441   1,441   1,441   1,441   1,441   1,445   1,395   1,338   1,474   1,	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     J.   Fo	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.   1,642   1,790   1,863   1,878   4 AND   781   763   773   1,002   1,434   1,532   11.—C]   2,400   2,449   2,637   -Misce   1,580   1,547   1,494   1,422   -" C" "   1,591   1,591	June Qtr.  GROOD  GROOD  1,772 1,994 1,957 1,957 1,903  LOUSING  1,382 1,003  LOUSING  2,640 2,677 2,721 2,917  LLANEO  1,603 1,656 1,604 1,538  SERIES  SERIES  1,696	51.    Sept.   Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     Qtr.     (Qtr.     (Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.    2,165   2,292   2,325   2,483     781   800   930   1,003     SERIES   1,705   1,776   1,901      2,858   2,955   2,927   3,045      1,780   1,78	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   NDE   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,913   2,968   2,969   3,082   1,811   1,843   1,796   1,663   1,994   2,037   2,937	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   1,763   1,892   1,926   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137   3,147   1,972   1,921   1,799   1,921   1,799	1,931   52.   Sept. Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,637   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,150   3,171   3,183   2,025   1,970   1,829	2,24   De   Qts   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   93   93   1,00   1,76   1,81   1,82   2,06   3,22   3,22
Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Town.  Yarwick, Qld.  Yanberra, A.C.T.  Warwick, Qld.  Yarwick, Qld.	Mar. Qtr.    1,422   1,506   1,543   1,539     763   739   773   990     UPS I1   1,162   1,239   1,322     2,093   2,153   2,159   2,310     1,392   1,386   1,342   1,300	June   Qtr.	50.    Sept. Qtr. GROUP   1,491   1,602   1,611   1,654   1,753   991   1,218   1,280   1,212   1,214   1,246   1,246   1,246   1,246   1,246   1,392   1,246   1,449   1,395   1,388   ROUPS	QUA    Dec.   Qtr.     I.   For     I.   For	Mar. Qtr.    Mar. Qtr.	June   Qtr.     GROOI   1,772   1,995   1,967   1,967   1,967   1,967   1,003   1,382   1,457   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,491   1,587   1,696   1,758   1,696   1,758   1,696   1,758   1,696   1,758   1,696   1,758   1,778   1,788   1,778   1,788   1,78	51.  Sept. Qtr. Qtr. [943] 2,151 2,173 2,290 ED HOU 781 795 930 1,003 1,	Dec.   Qtr.	1,456   Mar. Qtr.   2,311   2,367   2,379   2,579   826   930   1,003   1,768   1,761   1,809   1,959   2,968   2,969   3,082   1,811   1,843   1,796   1,663   1,994   1,994	1,600   June Qtr.   2,385   2,580   2,573   2,828   804   831   930   1,004   1,763   1,892   2,110   3,014   3,089   3,137   3,147   3,147   3,147   1,910   1,921   1,799   2,061   2,165   2,186	1,931   52.   Sept.   Qtr.   2,412   2,632   2,632   2,826   832   930   1,004   1,780   1,924   1,966   2,109   3,150   3,171   3,183   3,1	De Qti   2,39   2,45   2,51   2,75   80   83   3,19   2,06   1,76   3,22   3,25   2,01   1,96   1,96   1,96   1,96   1,96

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

#### Retail Price "Group" Index-Numbers(a): Thirty Towns.

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

		NEW	SOUT	H WAL	ES.				VICT	ORIA.		
Period.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam- bool.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
			Gi	ROUP I.	-Foon	AND G	ROCERI	ES.	1	1	1	1
Nov. 1914 (b) 1921 Year 1939 , 1945 , 1946 , 1948 , 1948 , 1949 , 1951	638 964 936 1,035 1,039 1,110 1,258 1,388 1,572 2,099 2,654	977 965 1,048 1,049 1,123 1,277 1,401 1,570 2,168 2,678	972 1,106 1,278 1,277 1,337 1,494 1,696 1,899 2,320 2,907	950 991 1,073 1,070 1,126 1,290 1,445 1,634 2,196 2,727	935 940 1,036 1,048 1,114 1,271 1,414 1,616 2,117 2,730	964 942 1,041 1,044 1,116 1,264 1,395 1,579 2,109 2,662	616 923 942 1,057 1,052 1,110 1,274 1,418 1,605 2,088 2,509	928 939 1,045 1,051 1,104 1,269 1,413 1,595 2,149 2,561	919 930 1,046 1,050 1,090 1,245 1,397 1,595 2,040 2,517	941 946 1,006 1,012 1,095 1,265 1,411 1,597 2,116 2,516	948 955 1,060 1,079 1,115 1,267 1,395 1,602 2,120 2,612	924 942 1,055 1,051 1,109 1,272 1,417 1,604 2,090 2,512
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	2,526 2,727 2,705 2,657	2,558 2,747 2,727 2,678	2,763 2,966 2,988 2,910	2,599 2,864 2,762 2,684	2,524 2,803 2,802 2,789	2,534 2,735 2,714 2,665	2,366 2,539 2,584 2,547	2,447 2,575 2,641 2,581	2,351 2,539 2,607 2,571	2,383 2,554 2,584 2,542	2,449 2,615 2,693 2,690	2,370 2,541 2,587 2,550
		GRO		-Housi	NG (4 A	ND 5-R	OOMED					
Nov. 1914 (b) ,, 1921 Year 1939 ,, 1945 ,, 1946 ,, 1948 ,, 1949 ,, 1950 ,, 1951 ,, 1952	758 1,000 1,035 1,043 1,044 1,047 1,049 1,050 1,053 1,118	885 890 903 904 904 906 908 908 908	559 764 760 761 763 764 776 782 784 795	881 871 885 886 887 888 890 892 892 900	596 843 843 843 844 845 847 848 854 898	966 1,015 1,024 1,024 1,025 1,027 1,030 1,031 1,034 1,094	608 845 955 973 973 974 974 976 979 980 984	714 710 713 715 720 724 729 736 741	527 731 744 743 743 746 748 764 777 791	668 876 887 887 888 888 889 890 890	685 921 934 934 934 934 945 945 961	789 938 955 956 956 958 961 963 967
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	1 059 1,089 1,137 1,188	908 908 932 974	788 795 795 803	892 896 900 910	861 863 911 956	1,039 1,066 1,111 1,159	983 984 984 985	737 739 744 744	780 793 793 799	892 892 -892 893	959 961 961 962	966 967 968 968
				GRO	UP III	-Сьоті						
Nov. 1914 (b) ,,, 1921 Year 1939 ,, 1945 ,, 1946 ,, 1948 ,, 1949 ,, 1950 ,, 1951 ,, 1952	755 1,255 843 1,425 1,516 1,573 1,766 2,022 2,329 2,806 3,116	1,327 823 1,430 1,510 1,573 1,778 2,063 2,347 2,827 3,144	1,269 850 1,455 1,548 1,588 1,792 2,079 2,384 2,863 3,174	1,374 861 1,448 1,538 1,607 1,805 2,092 2,381 2,816 3,123	1,261 840 1,455 1,545 1,610 1,822 2,106 2,379 2,857 3,152	1,264 842 1,427 1,517 1,574 1,768 2,027 2,333 2,809 3,120	780 1,271 832 1,431 1,502 1,563 1,723 1,975 2,259 2,697 3,085	1,599 851 1,470 1,497 1,566 1,744 1,996 2,269 2,742 3,128	1,570 841 1,478 1,510 1,582 1,742 1,991 2,259 2,723 3,114	1,463 846 1,480 1,519 1,572 1,735 1,981 2,279 2,701 3.098	1,612 842 1,480 1,515 1,588 1,738 1,981 2,280 2,709 3,087	1,326 833 1,436 1,503 1,564 1,725 1,977 2,260 2,700 3,088
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	3,025 3,098 3,125 3,214	3,021 3,137 3,175 3,243	3,088 3,138 3,204 2,367	3,038 3,103 3,141 3,211	3,041 3,103 3,189 3,276	3,027 3,102 3,131 3,218	2,957 3,112 3,109 3,162	2,996 3,143 3,169 3,204	3,012 3,133 3,140 3,170	2,981 3,104 3,143 3,162	2,933 3,111 3,149 3,153	2,960 3,114 3,113 3,163
Nov. 1914 (b)	766	1	1	1	IV.—N	ISCELLA	NEOUS.	1	1	1	1	1
Nov. 1914 (b) , 1921 , 1921 , 1945 , 1946 , 1946 , 1948 , 1949 , 1950 , 1951 , 1951 , 1952	1,009 940 1,163 1,170 1,216 1,268 1,364 1,470 1,711 1,980	995 901 1,080 1,083 1,125 1,184 1,266 1,361 1,563 1,829	1,102 1,048 1,280 1,296 1,350 1,445 1,520 1,640 1,897 2,244	951 908 1,107 1,111 1,156 1,214 1,296 1,402 1,650 1,918	989 888 1,098 1,101 1,147 1,208 1,271 1,359 1,590 1,812	1,011 938 1,158 1,165 1,210 1,264 1,358 1,464 1,702 1,969	720 1,021 977 1,159 1,164 1,187 1,249 1,321 1,426 1,668 1,949	956 990 1,198 1,197 1,218 1,276 1,351 1,449 1,677 1,978	1,012 1,004 1,217 1,217 1,239 1,295 1,358 1,470 1,695 1,972	1,033 980 1,192 1,193 1,213 1,272 1,340 1,442 1,675 1,950	880 951 1,165 1,164 1,185 1,240 1,320 1,417 1,672 1,964	1,015 978 1,163 1,168 1,191 1,252 1,324 1,428 1,669 1,951
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	1,877 1 997 2,020 2,024	1,728 1,850 1,870 1,868	2,104 2,261 2,301 2,309	1,827 1,925 1,946 1,974	1,720 1,821 1.851 1,857	1,860 1,989 2,012 2,016	1,786 1,900 2,033 2,076	1,810 1,922 2,065 2,116	1,814 1,930 2,044 2,098	1,785 1,898 2,039 2,076	1,810 1,909 2,040 2,097	1,788 1,902 2,035 2,078

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

Retail Price "Group" Index-Numbers (a): Thirty Towns—continued.

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

		(	UEENS	SLAND.				SOU	JTH AU	JSTRAI	LIA.	
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock- hampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peter- borough,	Weighted Average,
	1	1	GB	OUP I	-Food	AND G	ROCERII	es.	1	1	1	(
Nov. 1914 (b) 1921 1939 1945 1945 1946 1947 1948 1049 1950 1950 1952	614 955 864 966 981 1,055 1,208 1,332 1,462 1,823 2,328	895 823 1,009 1,018 1,092 1,228 1,358 1,480 1,859 2,382	949 904 1,016 1,016 1,097 1,244 1,373 1,523 1,913 2,395	981c 961 1,055 1,071 1,148 1,295 1,442 1,560 1,941 2,485	936d 912- 1,025 1,039 1,112 1,255 1,383 1,515 1,881 2,390	950 872 980 993 1,068 1,219 1,346 1,476 1,842 2,349	683 941 897 1,002 1,006 1,067 1,230 1,351 1,494 1,931 2,380	945 973 1,034 1,049 1,103 1,234 1,386 1,531 1,948 2,414	968 996 1,074 1,079 1,141 1,294 1,422 1,585 2,035 2,502	923 937 1,014 1,027 1,071 1,220 1,332 1,557 2,108 2,445	997 981 1,054 1,056 1,117 1,269 1,393 1,524 1,974 2,441	943 904 1,006 1,011 1,071 1,233 1,355 1,500 1,939 2,387
1952 Mar. Qtr., June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,,	2,290 2,334 2,367 2,321	2,332 2,434 2,401 2,361	2,373 2,416 2,409 2,383	2,429 2,472 2,531 2,506	2,377 2,403 2,398 2,382	2,311 2,357 2,384 2,342	2,267 2,439 2,480 2,334	2,283 2,452 2,513 2.406	2,370 2,564 2,611 2,461	2,364 2,496 2,505 2,414	2,293 2,496 2,543 2,433	2,273 2,446 2,487 2,342
		GRO	UP II	-Housi	NG (4 A	ND 5-RO		Houses	).(e)			
Nov. 1914 (b)  1921  1921  1945  1945  1946  1947  1948  1949  1950  1950  1951  1952	463 629 854 863 863 864 866 869 883 934 958	547 847 861 862 864 874 883 904 945 947	753 768 773 780 785 796 823 849 883	528c 861 865 866 866 866 867 868 887 953	535d 640 674 681 682 685 689 704 727 743	594 840 851 851 853 855 859 874 919	611 819 888 892 894 897 903 912 929 949 1,055	566 388 386 390 398 402 407 407 529 607	603 710 713 712 711 710 710 712 731 782	492 686 715 716 718 718 722 731 756 803	566 753 755 755 755 757 762 764 779 786	781 862 866 867 876 876 885 900 924 1,025
1952 Mar. Qtr ,, June ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	951 952 963 967	944 946 946 953	858 867 890 916	927 943 948 994	743 743 743 743	936 938 949 958	968 1,017 1,101 1,132	607 607 607 607	753 760 796 817	779 779 822 831	779 779 779 806	945 989 1,067 1,097
				GRO	UP III	СІОТН	ING.					
Nov. 1914 (b) " 1921 " 1945 " 1945 " 1946 " 1946 " 1948 " 1949 " 1950 " 1951	657 1,125 840 1,431 1,503 1,564 1,735 1,948 2,226 2,690 3,016	1,408 838 1,405 1,478 1,543 1,685 1,932 2,223 2,655 2,992	1 452 856 1,454 1,519 1 568 1,725 1,954 2,238 2,696 3,047	1,568 <i>c</i> 855 1,437 1,507 1,571 1,728 1,957 2,246 2,703 3,027	1,519d 852 1,424 1,495 1,541 1,728 1,968 2,252 2,733 3,062	1,235 843 1,431 1,503 1,563 1,730 1,949 2,229 2,690 3,018	756 1,195 863 1,413 1,482 1,554 1,727 1,991 2,256 2,736 3,108	1,435 852 1,405 1,466 1,557 1,721 1,076 2,250 2,688 3,106	1,480 854 1,410 1,493 1,579 1,759 1,989 2,250 2,716 3,102	1,697 852 1,416 1,495 1,581 1,724 1,954 2,231 2,714 3,133	1,180 844 1,419 1,482 1,569 1,722 1,986 2,290 2,724 3,123	1,238 862 1,413 1,482 1,556 1,728 1,990 2,256 2,733 3,108
1952 Mar. Qtr ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	2,923 3,002 3,049 3,088	2,896 2,965 3,020 3.086	2,961 3,027 3,070 3,128	2,938 3,029 3,048 3,097	2,965 3,027 3,102 3,152	2,926 3,004 3,050 3,093	3,015 3,115 3,131 3,171	2,999 3,113 3,126 3,187	2,995 3,116 3,133 3,162	3,027 3,132 3,148 3,224	3,004 3,136 3,166 3,184	3,014 3,115 2,131 3,172
				GROUP	IVM	[ISCRLLA	NEOUS.					
Nov. 1914 (b) " 1921 Year 1939 " 1945 " 1946 " 1948 " 1948 " 1950 " 1951	728 944 955 1,133 1,136 1,154 1,215 1,290 1,363 1,603 1,841	953 983 1,166 1,167 1,188 1,251 1,307 1,378 1,633 1.885	1,002 969 1,169 1,172 1,188 1,257 1,347 1,408 1,661 1,916	1,0096 996 1,178 1,183 1,199 1,274 1,373 1,453 1,730 1,989	988d 992 1,167 1,156 1,176 1,248 1,326 1,411 1,664 1,898	958 962 1,142 1,145 1,163 1,225 1,302 1,375 1,620 1,861	770 1,033 1,022 1,213 1,219 1,251 1,327 1,394 1,470 1,710 2,025	1,065 989 1,237 1,242 1,277 1,351 1,446 1,530 1,769 2,077	1,065 999 1,209 1,216 1,242 1,317 1,383 1,458 1,689 2,009	1,032 1,017 1,233 1,239 1,267 1,358 1,424 1,506 1,797 2,111	1,000 994 1,226 1,233 1,245 1,311 1,370 1,442 1,720 2,066	1,036 1,019 1,214 1,220 1,252 1,328 1,396 1,472 1,713 2,028
1952 Mar. Qtr , June ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	1,726 1,856 1,883 1,897	1,772 1,869 1,946 1,954	1,782 1,917 1,965 2,001	1,874 1,992 2,028 2,063	1,779 1,892 1,953 1,966	1,744 1,872 1,905 1,922	1,886 2,010 2,103 2,100	1,951 2,071 2,142 2,142	1,859 1,982 2,095 2,098	1,976 2,113 2,175 2,180	1,932 2,076 2,131 2,123	1,889 2,013 2,105 2,103

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (c) Charters Towers. (d) Warwick. (e) See footnote (b) on page 10.

## Retail Price "Group" Index-Numbers(a): Thirty Towns-continuea. (Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

			WES	TERN A	AUSTR	ALIA.				TASM	ANIA.			age,	age,
P	eriod.	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns,
			1		GF	ROUP I	-Food	AND G	ROCERII	ES.			1	5	-
Nov. Year	1921 1939 1945 1946 1947 1948 1950 1951	746 1,005 938 1,060 1,059 1,104 1,251 1,437 1,597 1,963 2,359	1,120 1,092 1,191 1,192 1,239 1,387 1,572 1,728 2,105 2,556	1,054c 972 1,069 1,073 1,125 1,272 1,455 1,613 1,995 2,429	1,049 967 1,045 1,057 1,109 1,257 1,443 1,610 1,991 2,415	1,031 947 1,084 1,084 1,133 1,279 1,471 1,636 2,033 2,473	1,033 951 1,070 1,070 1,115 1,262 1,448 1,608 1,976 2.379	687 1,027 923 1,043 1,069 1,132 1,316 1,495 1,574 1,574 1,992 2,487	958 914 999 1,018 1,092 1,273 1,459 1.534 2,026 2,465	1,108d 941 1,024 1,048 1,108 1,276 1,469 1,582 1,999 2,498	933 1,026 1,052 1,112 1,280 1,473 1,612 2,025 2,485	1,018 1,153 1,173 1,233 1,407 1,560 1,613 2,064 2,551	1,011 925 1,032 1,055 1,121 1,303 1,484 1,565 2,007 2,482	641 950 927 1,034 1,100 1,256 1,394 1,566 2,041 2,526	954 931 1,037 1,040 1,104 1,260 1,399 1,570 2,046 2,531
,,	Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	2,242 2,308 2,448 2,439	2,419 2,512 2,645 2,647	2,308 2,374 2,511 2,521	2,299 2,356 2,500 2,505	2,347 2,409 2,569 2,566	2,260 2,327 2,467 2,460	2,344 2,445 2,564 2,593	2,328 2,431 2,563 2,539	2,380 2,452 2,595 2,564	2,365 2,437 2,573 2,565	2,461 2,536 2,600 2,606	2,345 2,444 2,566 2,574	2,404 2,567 2,592 2,542	2,410 2,570 2,596 2,547
				GROT	JP II	-Housi	NG (4 A		DOMED :	Houses	).(f)				
Nov Year	1914 (b) 1921 1939 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951	586 754 881 886 686 887 889 901 1,065	578 1,318 1,037 1,055 1,080 1,082 1,095 1,126 1,180 1,212	616c 886 899 900 900 917 956 967 1,182 1,285	049 1,005 975 980 981 985 1,005 1,028 1,201 1,311	779 1,064 1,061 1,064 1,066 1,080 1,094 1,309 1,436	709 919 902 904 907 910 917 926 1,083 1,197	525 870 925 933 936 937 940 941 1,048 1,079	676 851 862 864 866 871 873 876 1,031	294d 836 851 853 853 853 853 853 857 987	750# 763 770 770 770 770 773 778 873 896	495 806 804 809 814 815 817 818 851	729 887 896 898 899 901 904 906 1,025 1,049	649 877 965 975 976 977 979 982 987 1,009	828 947 958 957 958 960 964 968 9937
1952 ,,	Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec	1,176 1,185 1,189 1,190	1,203 1,210 1,213 1,221	1,202 1,305 1,317 1,317	1,299 1,313 1,314 1,318	1,355 1,457 1,465 1,468	1,185 1,198 1,202 1,203	1,067 1,075 1,080 1,092	1,032 1,036 1,048 1,072	995 995 995 1,002	889 894 901	851 851 851 870	1,037 1,044 1,050 1,066	1,023 1,041 1,070 1,094	1,005 1,022 1,049 1,072
						GROT	JP III	-Сьотн	ING.						
Nov. Year	1914 (b) 1921 1939 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951	698 1,232 832 1,410 1,497 1,565 1,756 2,033 2,289 2,750 3,123	1,376 855 1,436 1,516 1,594 1,769 2,014 2,285 2,756 3,177	1,382e 842 1,407 1,478 1,552 1,706 1,975 2,239 2,681 3,077	1,454 849 1,413 1,482 1,555 1,733 2,003 2,265 2,688 3,097	1,320 847 1,412 1,489 1,553 1,745 2,011 2,276 2,749 3,141	1,277 834 1,412 1,497 1,567 1,755 2,029 2,287 2,755 3,126	825 1,427 856 1,420 1,510 1,572 1,748 1,992 2,286 2,752 3,089	1,670 853 1,414 1,497 1,570 1,719 1,984 2,273 2,717 3,093	1,525d 843 1,426 1,513 1,570 1,720 1,982 2,273 2,727 3,080	1,405e 844 1,425. 1,538 1,599 1,753 1,996 2,299 2,732 3,098	1,504 853 1,430 1,521 1,579 1,732 1,903 2,282 2,735 3,148	1,513 854 1,419 1,508 1,573 1,738 1,990 2,282 2,739 3,093	754 1,246 841 1,425 1,505 1,566 1,744 1,997 2,286 2,749 3,096	1,290 841 427 427 506 567 745 2,287 2,749 3,097
1952 ,,	Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	3,027 3,152 3,141 3,172	3.047 3,204 3,214 3,213	2,938 3,110 3,117 3,141	2,975 3,113 3,137 3,163	3,005 3,169 3,187 3,202	3,025 3,155 3,147 3,177	2,905 3,090 3,130 3,142	2,995 3,098 3,126 3,152	2,942 3,113 3,127 3,139	2,938 3,122 3,153 3,177	3,030 3,156 3,206 3,201	2,992 3,097 3,133 3,149	2,992 3,099 3,115 3,177	2,993 3,099 3,118 3,178
						GROUP	IV.—M	ISCELLA	NEOUS.						
Nov. Year	1914 (b) 1921 1939 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951	780 1,029 954 1,138 1,143 1,158 1,202 1,288 1,357 1,624 1,945	1,030 974 1,176 1,173 1,181 1,239 1,300 1,361 1,642 1,964	1,016c 948 1,136 1,153 1,170 1,224 1.302 1,372 1,565 1,826	977 912 1,094 1,098 1,113 1,166 1,252 1,318 1,536 1,847	1,102 1,034 1,208 1,212 1,220 1,274 1,368 1 453 1,713 2,057	1,029 956 1,141 1,146 1,160 1,206 1,290 1,358 1,624 1,944	699 932 938 1,100 1,104 1,130 1,175 1,219 1,293 1,600 1,920	985 947 1,096 1,103 1,126 1,171 1,218 1,291 1,575 1,862	941d 874 997 1,004 1,029 1,067 1,108 1,171 1,420 1,690	960e 882 996 999 1,022 1,060 1,099 1,166 1,413 1,677	959 881 1,053 1,058 1,058 1,105 1,145 1,201 1,440 1,681	952 934 1,089 1,094 1,118 1,163 1,206 1,278 1,572 1,874	749 962 1,161 1,167 1,257 1,338 1,435 1,679 1,958	1,009 962 1,160 1,166 1,256 1,336 1,432 1,675 1,954
1952	Mar. Qtr. June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	1,813 1,946 1,997 2,023	1,865 1,959 2,001 2,031	1,706 1,836 1,868 1,894	I,749 I,848 I,882 I,910	1,800 2,080 2,113 2.143	1,814 1,945 1,995 2.021	1,786 1,894 1,998 2,003	1,750 1,853 1,921 1,925	1,573 1,684 1,749 1,755	1,562 1,668 1,735 1,741	1,575 1,667 1,730 1,753	1,749 1,855 1,944 1,949	1,828 1,949 2,018 2,035	1,825 1,945 2,013 2,031

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10.
(b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20.
(c) Midland Junction.
(d) Zeehan.
(e) Beaconsfield.
(f) See footnote (b) on page 10.

3. "B" Series Retail Price Index: Food, Groceries and Rent.—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled for the year 1925, and retrospectively for several earlier years. It was designed to replace the "A" Series Index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index compiled in 1912. The first of the following tables covers only the six capital cities and gives index-numbers for the two Groups of the regimen involved split up into their various Sections, while the second table gives the "B" Series Index dissected into its two Groups for each of the 30 towns, the weighted averages of the 5 towns in each State, the six capital cities and the 30 towns. The "B" Series Index (split up into its two Groups) for four additional towns not included in the weighted averages appears on page 24.

Retail Price Index-Numbers(a): Capital Cities—"B" Series. (Base of each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923–27 = 1,000.)

	1	- 1			1				1	
Town.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950	1951.	1952
			SEC	TION A	-GROCER	IES.				
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	994	1,167	1,298	1,411	1,806	2,16
Melbourne	461	521	562	1,070	957	1,153	1,296	1,416	1,739	2,03
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,105	944	1,165	1,305	1,387	1,722	1,98
Adelaide	510	541	598	1,076	939	1,144	1,263	1,374	1,724	1,94
Perth	572	720	628	1,103	966	1,183	1,268	1,380	1,650	2,02
Hobart	501	566	604	1,087	947	1,143	1,272	1,390	1,749	2,09
SIX CAPITALS (b)	499	564	599	1,093	969	1,161	1,292	1,404	1,757	2,07
	1		SECTIO	N B.—I	DAIRY PI	RODUCE.				
Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	851	1,165	1,306	1,439	1,723	2,39
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,087	885	1,189	1,330	1,441	1,715	2,22
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	793	1,115	1,233	1,312	1,530	2,10
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	800	1,136	1,258	1,353	1,611	2,11
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	870	1,166	1,292	1,436	1,705	2,16
Hobart	564	587	695	1,091	844	1,181	1,319	1,410	1,658	2,20
SIX CAPITALS (b)	563	591	654	1,072	853	1,165	1,301	1,418	1,688	2,26
			SE	CTION C.	-MEAT.					
Sydney	519	501	668	960	935	1,456	1,571	1,899	2,836	3,52
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	968	1,502	1,649	2,000	2,896	3,38
Brisbane	535	488	610	897	822	1,343	1,453	1,695	2,231	2,96
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,095	929	1,423	1,543	1,776	2,503	3,10
Perth	789	824	881	1,103	958	1,411	1,785	2,025	2,608	2,9
Hobart	668	638	780	1,244	961	1,662	1,945	1,962	2,624	3,2
SIX CAPITALS (b)	558	522	691	1,010	936	1,458	1,603	1,909	2,744	3,3
OIA CAILLAIS (0)				COMBIN					-77 TT 1	373
	1						1			
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	936	1,258	1,388	1,572	2,099	2,6
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,274	1,418	1,605	2,088	2,50
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	864	1,208	1,332	1,462	1,823	2,3
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	897	1,230	1,351	1,494	1,931	2,3
		753	728	1,166	938	1,251	1,437	1,597	1,963	2,3
Perth	670									2,4
Perth	565	592	678	1,133	.923	1,316	1,495	1,574	1,992	-,-
Perth Hobart	565	592 559	540	1,064	927	1,256	1,394	1,566	2,041	2,52
Perth Hobart	565	592 559	540		927	1,256	1,394	1,566		
Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b)	565	592 559 ECTION D	640 .—Hous	1,064 SING (4 A)	927 ND 5-R00	1,256 MED HO	USES). (c	1,566	1,053	2,5
Donale	565 533 8	592 559 ECTION D	760 628	1,064 SING (4 A) 989 820	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955	I,256 MED HO I,047 974	USES). (c 1,049 976	1,566 ) 1,050 979	1,053	1,1:
Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b) Sydney	565 533 8	592 559 ECTION D	640 .—Hous	1,064 SING (4 A) 989 820 630	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854	1,256 MED HO	USES). (c	1,566	1,053	1,11
Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide	565 533 8 593 455 283 510	592 559 ECTION D 701 569	760 628 466 655	1,064 SING (4 A) 989 820	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888	1,256 MED HO 1,047 974 866 903	I,394 USES). (c I,049 976 869 912	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929	1,053 980 934 949	1,1; 9,0 1,0;
Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaíde Perth	565 533 S 593 455 283	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373	760 628 466 655 589	1,064 SING (4 A) 989 820 630 809 739	1,035 955 854 888 881	1,256 MED HO 1,047 974 866	1,394 USES). (c 1,049 976 869 912 895	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929 901	1,053 980 934 949 1,065	1,1 9 9 1,0 1,1
Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b) Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth	565 533 8 593 455 283 510	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706	760 628 466 655	989 820 630 809	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888	1,256 MED HO 1,047 974 866 903	I,394 USES). (c I,049 976 869 912	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929	1,053 980 934 949	1,1 9 9 1,0 1,1
Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart SIX CAPITALS (b)	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706 524 452 612	760 628 466 655 589 518 662	989 820 630 809 739 881 862	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965	1,256  MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979	1,394 USES). (c 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048	1,1:
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706 524 452 612	760 628 466 655 589 518 662	989 820 630 809 739 881 862	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965	1,256  MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979	1,394 USES). (c 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048	1,1: 90 90 1,0: 1,1: 1,0:
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 8 COMBIN	760 628 466 655 589 518 662	1,064  989 820 630 809 739 881 862  OD, GROG	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965	1,256  MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979  ND HOU	1,394 USES). (c 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982 SING—"]	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987 B '' SERI	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048 1,009	1,1 9, 9, 1,0 1,1 1,0
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL  Sydney	505 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497 SECTION	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 8 COMBIN	760 628 466 655 589 518 662 ED.—FO	989 820 630 809 739 881 862 OD, GROG	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965 CERIES, A	1,256 MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979 ND HOU	1,394 USES). (e 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982 SING—"]	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987 B'' SERI	2,041 1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048 1,009 ES.	1,1 9,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL  Sydney Melbourne	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497 SECTION	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 8 COMBIN 606 539	640 760 628 466 655 589 518 662 EDFO	989 820 630 809 739 881 862 OD, GROG	927 ND 5-R00 1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965 CERIBS, A	1,256 MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979 ND HOU	1,394 USES). (c  1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982 II,252 1,243	1,566 )  1,050 979 883 929 901 987 SERI	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048 1,009 ES.	1,1: 90 90 1,0: 1,1: 1,0:
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497 SECTION 548 495 442	592 559 ECTION D 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 8 COMBIN 606 539 500	760 628 466 655 589 518 662 EDF0	1,064 HNG (4 A) 989 820 630 809 739 881 862 OD, GROOD 1,036	927 ND 5-R00  1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965  CERIES, A  972 945 858	1,256 MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979 ND HOUI	1,394 USES). (e 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982 I,243 1,149	1,566 )  1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987 B'' SERI 1,365 1,357 1,233	1,053 980 934 1,065 1,048 1,009 ES.	1,1 9,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaíde Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaíde	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 10 458 405 497 SECTION	592 559 602 559 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 606 539 500 618	760 628 466 655 589 518 662 EDFO	1,064 HNG (4 A) 989 820 630 809 739 8862 00, GR00	1,035 955 854 888 881 955 965 CERIES, A 972 945 858 851	1,256 MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979 ND HOUI	1,394   USE8). (c   1,049   976   869   912   895   940   982   1,252   1,243   1,149   1,177	1,566 ) 1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987 SERI 1,365 1,357 1,233 1,270	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048 1,009 ES.	2,5 1,1 9 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide  Adelaide	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497 SECTION 548 495 442	592 559 602 701 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 8 COMBIN 606 539 500 618 672	760 628 466 655 589 518 662 EDF0	1,064 HNG (4 A) 989 820 630 809 739 881 862 OD, GROOD 1,036	927 ND 5-R00  1,035 955 854 888 881 925 965  CERIES, A  972 945 858	1,256 MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979 ND HOUI	1,394 USES). (e 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982 I,243 1,149	1,566 )  1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987 B'' SERI 1,365 1,357 1,233	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048 1,009 ES.	2,5 1,1 9 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0
Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart  SIX CAPITALS (b)  ALL  Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Adelaide Perth Perth Prisbane Adelaide Perth Perth	565 533 8 593 455 283 510 458 405 497 SECTION 548 495 442 524 594	592 559 602 559 701 569 373 706 524 452 612 606 539 500 618	760 628 466 655 589 518 662 EDF0 687 616 554 679	1,064  SING (4 AI  989 820 630 809 739 881 862  OD, GROO  1,036 977 877 975 982	927 ND 5-R00  1,035 955 854 888 925 965  CERRIES, A  972 945 858 891 914	1,256 MED HO  1,047 974 866 903 889 937 979 ND HOU	1,394 USES). (e 1,049 976 869 912 895 940 982 I,252 1,243 1,149 1,177 1,222	1,566  1,050 979 883 929 901 941 987 SERI 1,365 1,357 1,233 1,270 1,322	1,053 980 934 949 1,065 1,048 1,009 ES. 1,686 1,652 1,472 1,544 1,608	2,5 1,1 9, 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0 1,0

"B" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns. (Base of each Group (a): Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

		NEW	SOUT	H WA	LES.				VICT	ORIA.		
Period.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam- bool.	Weighted Average, s Towns.
			GRO	UP I	-Food	AND GE	OCERIE	s,				
Nov. 1914	638 964 936 1,035 1,039 1,110 1,258 1,388 1,572 2,099 2,654	977 965 1,048 1,049 1,123 1,277 1,401 1,570 2,168 2,678	972 1,106 1,278 1,277 1,337 1,494 1,696 1,899 2,320 2,907	950 991 1,073 1,070 1,126 1,290 1,445 1,634 2,196 2,727	935 940 1,036 1,048 1,114 1,271 1,414 1,616 2,117 2,730	964 942 1,041 1,044 1,116 1,264 1,395 1,579 2,109 2,662	616 923 942 1,057 1,052 1,110 1,274 1,418 1,605 2,088 2,509	928 939 1,045 1,051 1,104 1,269 1,413 1,595 2,149 2,561	919 930 1,046 1,050 1,090 1,245 1,397 1,595 2,040 2,517	941 946 1,006 1,012 1,095 1,265 1,411 1,597 2,116 2,516	948 955 1,060 1,079 1,115 1,267 1,395 1,602 2,120 2,612	924 942 1,055 1,051 1,109 1,272 1,417 1,604 2,090 2,512
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	2,526 2,727 2,705 2,657	2,558 2,747 2,727 2,678	2,763 2,966 2,988 2,910	2,599 2,864 2,762 2,684	2,524 2,803 2,802 2,789	2,534 2,735 2,714 2,665	2,366 2,539 2,584 2,547	2,447 2,575 2,641 2,581	2,351 2,539 2,607 2,571	2,383 2,554 2,584 2,542	2,449 2,615 2,693 2,690	2,370 2,541 2,587 2,550
January January February March April May June July August September October November	2,470 2,530 2,579 2,734 2,727 2,721 2,744 2,694 2,678 2,668 2,668 2,627 2,677	2,474 2,551 2,649 2,757 2,745 2,740 2,752 2,719 2,709 2,691 2,667 2,675	2,764 2,740 2,786 2,960 2,967 2,972 3,045 2,963 2,954 2,955 2,883 2,891	2,558 2,609 2,630 2,858 2,869 2,865 2,919 2,685 2,683 2,691 2,681	2,482 2,528 2,561 2,809 2,804 2,797 2,828 2,804 2,774 2,803 2,770 2,793	2,477 2,537 2,588 2,742 2,735 2,729 2,753 2,702 2,686 2,676 2,637 2,682	2,328 2,367 2,403 2,532 2,541 2,545 2,600 2,580 2,572 2,557 2,557 2,546 2,539	2,429 2,454 2,458 2,560 2,577 2,588 2,656 2,641 2,625 2,603 2,566 2,575	2,323 2,360 2,371 2,527 2,5443 2,546 2,617 2,603 2,602 2,578 2,558 2,578	2,353 2,378 2,419 2,539 2,554 2,570 2,623 2,576 2,552 2,550 2,525 2,550	2,410 2,447 2,490 2,594 2,619 2,633 2,706 2,695 2,678 2,699 2,671 2,699	2,333 2,371 2,405 2,533 2,543 2,548 2,604 2,583 2,575 2,560 2,547 2,543
		GROU	P II.—	Housin	(G (4 A	ND 5-RO	OMED	Houses	). (b)			
Nov. 1914 , 1921 Year 1939 , 1945 , 1946 , 1947 , 1948 , 1949 , 1950 , 1951 , 1952	758 1,000 1,035 1,043 1,044 1,047 1,049 1,050 1,053 1,118	885 890 903 904 904 906 908 908 908 908	764 764 764 763 764 776 782 784 795	881 871 885 886 887 888 890 892 892 900	596 843 843 843 844 845 847 848 854 898	966 1,015 1,024 1,024 1,025 1,027 1,030 1,031 1,034 1,094	608 845 955 973 973 974 976 979 980 984	714 710 713 715 720 724 729 736 741	527 731 744 743 743 746 748 764 777 791	668 876 887 8887 888 888 889 890 890 892	685 921 934 934 934 934 945 945 961	789 938 955 956 956 958 961 963 967
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	1,059 1,089 1,137 1,188	908 908 932 974	788 795 795 803	892 896 900 910	861 863 911 956	1,039 1,066 1,111 1,159	983 984 984 985	737 739 744 744	780 793 793 799	892 892 892 893	959 961 961 962	966 967 968 968
		GR	OUPS I.	-II.—F	'00D, G	ROCERII	ES, AND	Housi	NG.			
Nov. 1914 Year 1939 1921 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 Mar. Qtr. 1952 Mar. Qtr. 1952 Mar. Sept, 1958	680 977 972 1,036 1,038 1,082 1,173 1,252 1,365 1,686 2,049 1,948 2,082 2,088	 944 934 989 990 1,035 1,129 1,205 1,309 1,672 1,990 1,909 2,024 2,021	825 970 1,073 1,073 1,110 1,206 1,333 1,459 1,715 2,077 1,987 2,113 2,126	926 942 997 996 1,030 1,130 1,225 1,341 1,682 2,008	815 900 958 966 1,002 1,190 1,313 1,619 2,009 1,870 2,040 2,040 2,058	0,000 0,000	613 895 945 1,022 1,019 1,054 1,154 1,243 1,357 1,652 1,909	769 849 912 917 917 918 1,052 1,141 1,254 1,593 1,846 1,775 1,853 1,895	780. 851 926 928 952 1,048 1,140 1,267 1,543 1,838 1,733 1,852 1,894	844 917 957 961 1,012 1,116 1,204 1,318 1,633 1,877 1,796 1,900 1,918	855 940 1,008 1,020 1,042 1,134 1,212 1,342 1,657 1,962	876 938 1,013 1,011 1.046 1,235 1,350 1,646 1,904 1,817 1,922

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

"B" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns—continued.

(Base of each Group (a): Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

			QUEEN	ISLAND	)_			SOU	TH AU	JSTRAI	IA.	
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhamp- ton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peter- borough.	Weighted Average,
			GB	OUP I	-Food		ROCERI					
Nov. 1914 ,, 1921 Year 1939 ,, 1945 ,, 1946 ,, 1947 ,, 1948 ,, 1950 ,, 1951 ,, 1952	614 955 864 966 981 1,055 1,208 1,332 1,462 1,823 2,328	895 823 1,009 1,018 1,092 1,228 1,358 1,480 1,859 2,382	949 904 1,016 1,016 1,097 1,244 1,373 1,523 1,913 2,395	981b 961 1,055 1,071 1,148 1,295 1,442 1,560 1,941 2,485	936c 912 1,025 1,039 1,112 1,255 1,383 1,515 1,881 2,390	950 872 980 993 1,068 1,219 1,346 1,476 1,842 2,349	683 941 897 1,002 1,006 1,067 1,230 1,351 1,494 1,931 2,380	945 973 1,034 1,049 1,103 1,234 1,386 1,531 1,948 2,414	968 996 1,074 1,079 1,141 1,294 1,422 1,585 2,035 2,502	923 937 1,014 1,027 1,071 1,220 1,332 1,557 2,108 2,445	997 981 1,054 1,056 1,117 1,269 1,393 1,524 1,974 2,441	943 904 1,006 1,011 1,071 1,233 1,355 1,500 1,939 2,387
,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	2,290 2,334 2,367 2,321	2,332 2,434 2,401 2,361	2,373 2,416 2,409 2,383	2,429 2,472 2,531 2,506	2,377 2,403 2,398 2,382	2,311 2,357 2,384 2,342	2,267 2,439 2,480 2,334	2,283 2,452 2,513 2,406	2,370 2,564 2,611 2,461	2,364 2,496 2,505 2,414	2,293 2,496 2,543 2,433	2,273 2,446 2,487 2,342
January January February March April May June July August September October November December	2,259 2,281 2,331 2,359 2,317 2,325 2,368 2,372 2,361 2,342 2,292 2,329	2,283 2,314 2,399 2,442 2,448 2,412 2,421 2,399 2,382 2,372 2,344 2,366	2,339 2,372 2,407 2,428 2,409 2,411 2,426 2,405 2,395 2,395 2,373 2,381	2,397 2,430 2,460 2,459 2,466 2,491 2,544 2,537 2,511 2,509 2,509 2,499	2,331 2,372 2,427 2,442 2,381 2,386 2,407 2,396 2,390 2,392 2,365 2,390	2,278 2,303 2,353 2,378 2,344 2,350 2,389 2,388 2,376 2,360 2,318 2,349	2,268 2,249 2,285 2,421 2,433 2,463 2,527 2,465 2,449 2,312 2,316 2,373	2,264 2,268 2,317 2,439 2,448 2,469 2,543 2,505 2,491 2,388 2,384 2,445	2,361 2,353 2,397 2,532 2,556 2,605 2,680 2,579 2,575 2,450 2,436 2,498	2,362 2,360 2,370 2,482 2,495 2,510 2,576 2,482 2,488 2,431 2,391 2,421	2,284 2,286 2,309 2,469 2,493 2,525 2,594 2,515 2,430 2,401 2,467	2,272 2,256 2,291 2,427 2,440 2,470 2,534 2,471 2,455 2,322 2,324 2,381
		GROT	P II.—	Housin	G (4 A)	ND 5-R0	OMED	Houses	.(d)			1
Nov. 1914  "" 1921  "" 1945  "" 1945  "" 1948  "" 1948  "" 1950  "" 1951  "" 1952	463 629 854 863 863 864 866 869 883 934 958	547 847 861 862 864 874 883 904 945 947	753 768 773 780 785 796 823 849 883	528b 861 865 866 866 866 867 868 887 953	535c 640 674 681 682 685 689 704 727 743	594 840 851 851 853 855 859 874 919	611 819 888 892 894 897 903 912 929 949 1,055	566 388 386 390 398 402 407 407 529 607	603 710 713 712 711 710 710 712 731 782	492 686 715 716 718 718 722 731 756 803	566 753 755 755 757 762 764 779 786	781 862 865 867 876 885 900 924 1,025
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	951 952 963 967	944 946 946 953	858 867 890 916	927 943 948 994	743 743 743 743	936 938 949 958	968 1,017 1,101 1,132	607 607 607 607	753 760 796 817	779 779 822 831	779 779 779 806	945 989 1,067 1,097
		GR	OUPS I.	-IIF	00D, G	ROCERII	ES AND	Housi	₹Ġ.	,		'
Nov. 1914 , 1921 Year 1939 1945 , 1946 , 1947 , 1948 , 1949 , 1950 , 1951	560 840 858 924 932 978 1,072 1,149 1,233 1,472 1,789	771 830 949 955 1,001 1,087 1,170 1,252 1,498 1,817	779 843 917 919 971 1,063 1,145 1,247 1,493 1,800	820b 920 979 989 1,036 1,125 1,214 1,286 1,525 1,882	804 886 897 942 1,030 1,110 1,195 1,427 1,742	824 858 928 936 982 1,074 1,153 1,238 1,478	658 898 891 957 960 998 1,100 1,177 1,270 1,544 1,858	811 743 779 790 825 907 1,001 1,089 1,390 1,704	839 882 931 933 971 1,063 1,141 1,241 1,522 1,825	770 838 895 903 931 1,022 1,091 1,232 1,576	844 890 935 936 973 1,067 1,144 1,224 1,504	885 885 949 952 990 1,091 1,168 1,262 1,538 1,850
1952 Mar. Qtr. ,, June ,, ,, Sept. ,, ,, Dec. ,,	1,763 1,789 1,814 1,788	1,786 1,848 1,828 1,806	1,776 1,806 1,811 1,805	1,838 1,870 1,908 1,910	I,734 I,750 I,747 I,737	1,769 1,799 1.819 1.797	1,755 1,879 1,937 1,860	1,624 1,727 1,764 1,699	1,734 1,855 1,897 1,814	1,740 1,820 1,843 1,791	1,697 1,820 1,849 1,793	1,750 1,872 1,927 1,851

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick. (d) See footnote (b) on page 10.

### "B" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns-continued.

(Base of each Group (a): Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

			WEST	TERN A	USTRA	ALIA.				TASM	IANIA.			Average, I Citles.	Average,
Period.	elle eleministra eleministra e i place mente differenceso	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Weighted Ave Six Capital Cit	Weighted Ave \$0 Towns, Australia.
					Gr	ROUP I	-Food	AND G	ROCERI	25.					
,, 1921 Year 1939 ,, 1945 ,, 1946 ,, 1947 ,, 1948 ,, 1949 ,, 1950 ,, 1951		746 1,005 938 1,060 1,059 1,104 1,251 1,437 1,597 1,963 2,359	1,120 1,092 1,191 1,192 1,239 1,387 1,572 1,728 2,105 2,556	1,054b 972 1,069 1,073 1,125 1,272 1,455 1,613 1,995 2,429	1,049 967 1,045 1,057 1,109 1,257 1,443 1,610 1,991 2,415	1,031 947 1,084 1,084 1,133 1,279 1,471 1,636 2,033 2,473	1,033 951 1,070 1,070 1,115 1,262 1,448 1,608 1,976 2,379	687 1,027 923 1,043 1,069 1,132 1,316 1,495 1,574 1,992 2,487	958 914 999 1,018 1,092 1,273 1,459 1,534 2,026 2,465	1,108 <i>c</i> 941 1,024 1,048 1,108 1,276 1,469 1,582 1,999 2,498	996d 933 1,026 1,052 1,112 1,280 1,473 1,612 2,025 2,485	1,077 1,018 1,153 1,173 1,233 1,407 1,560 1,613 2,064 2,551	1,011 925 1,032 1,055 1,121 1,303 1,484 1,565 2,007 2,482	641 950 927 1,034 1,036 1,100 1,256 1,394 1,566 2,041 2,526	954 931 1,037 1,040 1,104 1,260 1,399 1,570 2,046 2.531
1952 Mar. ( ,, June ,, Sept. ,, Dec.	Qtr.	2,242 2,308 2,448 2,439	2,419 2,512 2,645 2,647	2,308 2,374 2,511 2,521	2,299 2,356 2,500 2,505	2,347 2,409 2,569 2,566	2,260 2,327 2,467 2,460	2,344 2,445 2,564 2,593	2,328 2,431 2,563 2,539	2,380 2,452 2,595 2,564	2,365 2,437 2,573 2,565	2,461 2,536 2,600 2,606	2,345 2,444 2,566 2,574	2,404 2,567 2,592 2,542	2,410 2,570 2,596 2,547
October November		2,226 2,234 2,266 2,283 2,306 2,334 2,439 2,451 2,454 2,454 2,454 2,429 2,454	2,397 2,411 2,448 2,470 2,503 2,562 2,638 2,646 2,651 2,625 2,642 2,674	2,285 2,302 2,337 2,359 2,375 2,387 2,495 2,515 2,523 2,514 2,512 2,537	2,281 2,290 2,315 2,335 2,355 2,355 2,378 2,488 2,504 2,508 2,489 2,502 2,502	2,329 2,341 2,372 2,386 2,409 2,431 2,538 2,580 2,588 2,556 2,557 2,585	2,243 2,252 2,284 2,302 2,325 2,354 2,457 2,470 2,474 2,453 2,450 2,476	2,305 2,358 2,370 2,402 2,456 2,478 2,542 2,566 2,585 2,586 2,594 2,600	2,295 2,336 2,353 2,404 2,439 2,449 2,551 2,567 2,572 2,547 2,515 2,556	2,349 2,401 2,389 2,429 2,456 2,470 2,588 2,599 2,597 2,549 2,538 2,605	2,327 2,380 2,388 2,407 2,436 2,467 2,547 2,575 2,596 2,554 2,554 2,594	2,413 2,483 2,486 2,520 2,544 2,545 2,592 2,592 2,590 2,590 2,636	2,308 2,358 2,370 2,408 2,453 2,470 2,548 2,568 2,583 2,571 2,565 2,587	2,365 2,403 2,444 2,565 2,565 2,570 2,516 2,574 2,548 2,524 2,553	2,370 2,408 2,451 2,568 2,569 2,574 2,620 2,589 2,578 2,554 2,554 2,557
				GRO	OUP II	-Hous	ING (4	AND 5-R	OOMED	House	S).(e)				
Year 1939 1945 1946 1946 1948 1949 1950 1950 1952 1952 Mar. June	,,	586 754 881 886 886 887 889 901 1,065 1,185	578 1,318 1,037 1,055 1,080 1,095 1,126 1,126 1,180 1,212	616b 886 899 900 900 917 956 967 1,182 1,285	 649 1,005 975 980 981 985 1,005 1,028 1,201 1,311 1,299 1,313 1,314	779 1,064 1,061 1,064 1,066 1,080 1,080 1,094 1,309 1,436 1,355 1,457 1,465	709 919 902 904 907 910 917 926 1,083 1,197 1,185 1,198	525 870 925 933 936 936 937 940 941 1,048 1,079 1,067 1,075 1,080	862 864 866 871 873 876 1,031 1,047	294c 836 851 853 853 853 853 855 987 997	763 770 770 770 770 773 778 873 896 889 894 901	806 804 809 814 815 -817 818 851 856 851 851	729 887 896 898 899 901 904 906 1,025 1,049	649 877 965 975 976 977 979 982 987 1,009 1,057	823 947 956 957 958 960 964 968 992 1,037 1,005 1,022 1,049
,, Sept. ,, Dec.	,,	1,100	1,221	1,317	1,318	1,468	1,203	1,092	1,072	1,002	901	870	1,066	1,094	1,072
				G	ROUPS 1	[II]	FOOD, C	ROCERI	ES AND	Housi	NG.				
" 1921 Year 1939 " 1945 " 1946 " 1947 " 1949 " 1950 " 1951	Otr	689 916 914 990 989 1,017 1,107 1,222 1,322 1,608 1,896	928 1,178 1,128 1,136 1,174 1,266 1,382 1,489 1,739 2,026	8988 936 1,001 1,003 1,034 1,131 1,257 1,358 1,673 1,977	979 1,015 1,024 1,056 1,148 1,269 1,380 1,679 1,979	942 990 1,072 1,073 1,103 1,315 1,421 1,746 2,063	1,002 1,003 1,031 1,122 1,237 1,338 1,623 1,912	922 998 1,014 1,053 1,165 1,275 1,324 1,620 1,932	858 887 943 956 1,001 1,113 1,227 1,274 1,634 1,907	819 898 954 969 1,006 1,108 1,225 1,600 1,907	c 6966 865 924 939 976 1,078 1,197 1,283 1,571 1,860	871 933 1,014 1,028 1,067 1,173 1,267 1,299 1,586 1,884	911 908 977 992 1,032 1,143 1,254 1,304 1,620 1,918	644   924   939   1,009   1,010   1,050   1,145   1,230   1,336   1,634   1,947	907 935 1,003 1,005 1,045 1,140 1,226 1,332 1,630 1,943
952 Mar. ,, June ,, Sept. ,, Dec.	Qtr.	1,821 1,865 1,951 1,946	1,939 1,998 2,081 2,085	1,872 1,951 2,040 2,046	1,904 1,944 2,032 2,036	1,955 2,032 2,132 2,132	1,835 1,881 1,968 1,964	1,841 1,906 1,979 2,002	1,817 1,881 1,967 1,961	1,834 1,878 1,965 1,949	1,784 1,829 1,915 1,910	1,827 1,873 1,912 1,923	1,830 1,892 1,969 1,980	1,966 1,992 1,971	1,961 1,987 1,966

<sup>(</sup>a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Midland Junction. (c) Zeehan. (d) Beaconsfield. (e) See footnote (b) on page 10.

## § 8. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding pages, a special investigation into prices in 70 additional towns was undertaken in November, 1913. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number was further increased to 170. Information in regard to prices obtained in November of each of the years 1923 to 1942 related, therefore, to 200 towns. After 1942, collection of returns of these prices was discontinued. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (pp. 26–33), and details respecting succeeding investigations were incorporated in the Labour Bulletins and Reports issued subsequently by this Bureau.

## § 9. Changes in the Regimen and Review of the Index.

I. General.—Since the original compilation of retail price indexes by the Bureau in 1912, the regimens of the several Groups and Sections have undergone some modifications, with the object of improving the indexes as measures of the variations in retail prices in individual towns, as between the many towns covered, and in the weighted average of all towns or the various combinations thereof. These modifications are briefly as follows:—

(i) Food and Groceries.—The regimen for food and groceries, originally introduced in 1912, was based upon the relative consumption of the years 1906 to 1910, and the first revision was made in September Quarter, 1932 and was based on the relative consumption of the years 1927 to 1929. The regimen in use up to that date will be found on page 13 of Labour Report No. 23. A second revision took place in September Quarter, 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936. The main features of this revision are referred to in para. 2 below.

(ii) Housing.—The housing constituent of the regimen has also been revised. Originally the rentals of all houses from "3 rooms and under" to "8 rooms and over" were tabulated, and they were continuously used in the "A" Series Index (food and rent of all houses) from 1912 to 30th June, 1938, when this series was discontinued. They were also used in the "C" Series Index up to and including the year 1924. From the following year rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses only were used in the "C" Series Index, and in the same year they were combined with food

and groceries to form the "B" Series Index.

Following on the resolutions of the 1936 Conference of Statisticians (see para. 2 below), the rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses in each of the six capital cities and "second" important town in each of the States (excepting Western Australia) have been determined on a somewhat different basis (for convenience designated the "Census" basis) from that previously used. For the six capital cities, this base was introduced into the indexes at the December Quarter, 1936, and for the "second" towns at the March Quarter, 1937. The basis adopted was that of the average rents, as disclosed by the 1933 Census, of 4 and 5-roomed houses occupied by fully-employed wage and salary earners in all industrial groups with the exception of "Fishing and Trapping," "Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying" and "Forestry," brought up to the above-mentioned quarters by applying the percentage variations in rent since the 1933 Census shown for corresponding houses at both periods in the rent rolls of the house-agents. At the same time, these rent rolls were carefully revised, after personal

inspection of all houses included, to ensure a satisfactory "sample" of houses upon which to measure rent variations in future. Thus, the rent levels having been established for the towns in question, the rent rolls ceased to be used for the determination of the average rent from quarter to quarter, and were used only for the purpose of measuring the percentage variations from quarter to quarter by means of corresponding houses in the rolls for the current and the preceding quarter—the percentage variations being applied progressively to the basic averages from the 1933 Census, as explained above. The new standard, so far as the towns in question are concerned, affected the indexes only in respect of the relative levels of rents in the different towns, and in respect of their absolute height.

The "Census" basis not being generally applicable to the circumstances of small provincial towns, on account of the great diversity of average "quality" of houses, the levels, as previously determined from a sample of houses selected by the house agents in accordance with definite standards originally laid down, were continued in the indexes until such time as the rent rolls were completely revised on the basis mentioned above. The revision was completed by June Quarter, 1939, but in the meantime as each town was completed the rent level then reached on the old basis was established as the base to which the percentage variations disclosed

by the rent rolls were progressively applied thereafter.

(iii) Clothing and Miscellaneous.—The regimen for clothing and miscellaneous household requirements was originally introduced in 1921, and the first revision was made in March Quarter, 1935. Details of the original regimen were not published, but the revised regimen of 1935 appeared in Labour Report No. 26. A second revision took place in September Quarter, 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936. The main features of this revision are referred to in para. 2 below. Some minor alterations have since been made in the regimen.

2. Revision of 1936.—The revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936, was of a comprehensive nature. The Resolutions of the Conference are reprinted in Appendix XI. of Labour Report No. 27. This Conference not only recommended extensive revisions of the regimen from which the indexes are compiled, but also considered methods of collection and compilation. As a result of its deliberations, and subsequent discussions by correspondence, many improvements and refinements were introduced.

The changes in the regimen made by this Conference comprised chiefly the elimination or replacement of articles no longer in demand, or which experience had shown to be unsuitable media for the measurement of price variations; the alteration of units of quantity in certain cases to conform with those in most general use; the adjustment of the mass unit allotted to certain articles to bring them into accord with present-day consumption habits; and the re-adjustment of the population and household weights applicable to the several groups and sections of the regimen in accordance with the results of the 1933 Census. Definite grades or qualities were also established for each article in the regimen, to ensure that quotations should be given, as far as possible, for the same article at all times and in all places, and expert field officers were appointed to collect, personally, prices to the standard qualities laid down. Improved methods of collecting and weighting average house rentals were also adopted (see para. I (ii) above).

3. Method of Effecting Changes.—Changes of the nature mentioned are commonly made in price indexes without seriously impairing their 3666.—3

continuity. In accordance with established principles of procedure in changing the regimen (see Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paras. 14 and 18), the general level of the index is taken as determined by the old regimen for the quarter in which the change is made, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price level after that date. The linking up of the index-numbers on the old and the new basis is effected by the usual method of equating the respective weighted aggregate costs

of the old and the new regimens in the six capital cities.

There are two methods of effecting this, as follows:—Up to June Quarter, 1942, all such changes were made by equating the new aggregate of the section embodying the changes to the former aggregate. This course was adopted when items were added to or omitted from the regimen, and when a change was made in the standard of any item. From September Quarter, 1942, however, all changes of standard were effected by an appropriate adjustment of the "mass unit" or "weight" so as to preserve the percentage weight which the item carried in the aggregate from time to time, and wherever possible the "weight" of any item dropped from the regimen was transferred to an article of a similar nature which would serve as a more appropriate medium for the measurement of the variations of the article dropped than the remaining items of the section, the "mass units" of which under the former procedure in effect were proportionately increased to carry the aggregate of the item dropped, or reduced to admit a new item added. (See also para. 3 on pages 15 and 16.)

4. Continuity of Indexes.—While the above involves no break of continuity in the index-numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, upon the basis of which all such changes are effected, slight alterations of the relative positions of individual towns are inevitable on account of the alteration of former standards. The effect, however, is more noticeable in the group index-numbers than in those covering a combination of groups, wherein the losses and gains tend to balance out. Thus, in comparing group index-numbers for individual towns in respect of periods including the dates of change referred to in paras. I to 3 above, the following considerations

should be kept in mind :-

(a) Food and Groceries.—These index-numbers are substantially comparable throughout the period up to June Quarter, 1936. From and including September Quarter, 1936 the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other, but are

not strictly so with those for previous quarters.

(b) Housing.—No change was ever made in the method of calculating the rentals of "All Houses", and consequently these indexnumbers were comparable throughout the whole period of their existence.\* In regard to rentals of houses of 4 and 5 rooms, however, the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other up to June Quarter, 1936. In September Quarter, 1936, a change was made in the methods of averaging and weighting the data from house-agents, which gave rise to slight disparities not due to rental fluctuations, and rendered the rent figures for individual towns not strictly comparable with those of former periods. The change, however, thereafter made the index-numbers for any one town more comparable with those of other towns. In December Quarter, 1936, the rent tabulations in the two principal towns of each State were placed on an entirely new basis, which rendered them

<sup>\*</sup> The tabulation of the "A" Series Index, for which these rents were used, was discontinued after the issue for June Quarter, 1938.

incomparable individually with average rents of previous periods. This change was also introduced with the object of making the index-numbers for the principal towns more comparable inter se

in any given quarter (see para. I (ii) above).

(c) Clothing and Miscellaneous.—The index-numbers for individual towns up to and including 1934 are comparable with those for previous periods. Those for 1935, and the March and June quarters of 1936, are comparable for those periods, but not with the index-numbers of former or subsequent periods. From and including September Quarter, 1936 the index-numbers for individual towns are substantially comparable with each other, both from quarter to quarter and from town to town, but for individual towns they are not strictly continuous with those of previous periods.

5. The Index under War Conditions.—Between the comprehensive revision of 1936 and the outbreak of war in 1939 changes in conditions did not require any appreciable revision of the regimen or mass units of items therein. The adjustments made in 1936 had brought the basis of the index "up-to-date" in the sense that it conformed reasonably closely to normal pre-war usage. Although the effects of the war produced some variations from normal consumption in 1940 and 1941, it was not until 1942 (as explained in § 2 (5) of this chapter) that fundamental changes began to occur. As there explained, the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 produced temporary changes of a far-reaching character which, if permanent and stable, must have necessitated fundamental re-adjustments in the regimen and mass units of the index. But the resultant changes in the index would have been so extensive as virtually to create a new index which would not have been continuously comparable with the "C" Series Index as compiled either pre-war or post-war. Consideration of the matter led to the conclusions-

(i) that it was desirable to continue the "C" Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of com-

parison of price movements on a clearly defined basis;

(ii) that it was impossible to reconstruct the "C" Series Index to take account of recurrent temporary departures from normal con-

sumption.

6. The Index since 1945.—The "C" Series Retail Price Index was reviewed at conferences of the Commonwealth and State Statisticians in 1949 and 1950. The resolutions of the 1949 Conference were reprinted on page 157 of Labour Report No. 38. Those of the 1950 Conference were reprinted on page 161 of Labour Report No. 39.\* The Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians held in Canberra in November, 1951 considered the subject of Retail Price Indexes more widely and paragraphs 57 to 79 of the Report of that Conference on this subject were reproduced as Section V. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 40.

In connexion with these conferences and subsequent to them, the components and construction of the "C" Series Index have been the subject of close examination by the Commonwealth Statistician with the assistance of State Statisticians. No post-war normal pattern of consumer expenditure has yet emerged. On the contrary, some marked short-term variations in the pattern continued into 1952. Consequently the weights in the Index have not been revised nor has the list of items in it been extended. Since

<sup>\*</sup> Resolution (g) of the 1950 Conference concerning the price of milk has not yet been applied, and is the subject of further enquiry during which movement in the price of this item is taken into account on a basis consistent with that applying since 1936.

1948, however, prices have been regularly collected for about 100 additional items not included in the Index, and more recently prices have been collected for more than one type of the main items in the clothing group of the Index. Concurrently estimates of consumption of individual items of food have been made annually (and in some cases quarterly) and annual and quarterly data as to aggregate retail sales, by groups of items, have been recorded.

Checks and test indexes made on the basis of these data indicate that the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index has remained reasonably reliable within its definition. The group indexes may require qualification in some instances in respect of short-term comparisons. Preliminary action has been taken towards compilation of a more broadly-based retail price index along the lines discussed at the Conference of British Commonwealth

Statisticians.

7. Other Published Material Concerning the Index.—During the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1949–50 (see page 78 of this Report for particulars) the Acting Commonwealth Statistician prepared for the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration a memorandum on the "C" Series Retail Price Index. This memorandum and annexures; submissions during the case by one of the advocates concerning the index together with comment thereon by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician; and extracts from the judgments referring to the index are reproduced as Section V. of the Appendix to this Report.

## § 10. Retail Price Indexes and Basic Wage Variations.

[Note.—The ensuing sections 10 and 11 relate to the position prior to 12th September, 1953. On that date the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced its decision to delete from its awards clauses providing for automatic adjustment of basic wages. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)]

Two distinct procedures are adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing and varying basic or living wages

as follows :--

(i) the Court periodically fixes the amount of wage in the light of evidence submitted by parties appearing before it. Such evidence usually covers a wide range of facts as to economic conditions;

(ii) having determined the amount of basic wage the Court further determines whether or not it shall be subject to automatic adjustment for changes in price level and, if so, by what method such variation shall be made. This again is decided in the light of evidence and of representations by the parties concerned.

The "C" Series Index is used by the Court to derive the "Court" series of retail price index-numbers upon which the basic portion\* of the wages prescribed in awards is varied automatically† for changes in price levels quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. These are commonly referred to as "cost of living adjustments" although in fact they relate only to that part of the change in cost of living which is due to variations in prices. The Court itself determines from time to time at public sittings the amount of the basic wage, having regard to evidence submitted in relation to other aspects of "cost of living" and other relevant considerations. In fixing the amount of the basic wage the Court does not have regard to either the regimen used in compiling the retail price index or the cost of such regimen. The regimen of the index would not be suited to such a purpose.

<sup>\*</sup> The "needs" portion only was adjustable from July, 1937 to December, 1950.
† On 12th September, 1953, the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)

The considerations upon which the basic wage is fixed are set out in successive judgments of the Court and briefly summarized in Chapter III. (§ 4) of this Report. On this matter, reference should be made to the Basic Wage Judgments of the Court, particularly those of 1934, 1937, 1941 and 1950\*, and to the general statement of principles set out in the judgment on the "Munition Workers' Case" of 1943.† Certain State industrial tribunals use the index-numbers directly for automatic or quasiautomatic adjustment of the rates of wages determined by them as tribunals, while some State tribunals have regard to the index-numbers and other factors in considering what "cost of living" variations they should make in rates of wages.

The use of indexes by industrial authorities for purposes of adjusting rates of wage for changes in price level is a practice of long standing, dating in the case of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, for example, back to the year 1913.1 The tribunals form their own judgment as to the relevance of the indexes to their purposes, and periodically hear the representatives of employers and employees on the issues involved, including questions as to whether the index is satisfactory for the purposes to which it is applied by the tribunal. In such proceedings the Statistician or his officers are called at times as witnesses on questions of fact and

technical matters relating to the indexes.

The automatic adjustments in wages prescribed in awards of the Court on the basis of retail price index-numbers are sometimes referred to as "cost of living adjustments" and the index is popularly referred to as a "cost of living index". This at times creates misconceptions as to the nature of the retail price index since the term "cost of living" connotes not only changes in cost of living due to changes in prices, but also changes in cost of living due to changes in standard of living. Beyond that, use of the term "cost of living" index sometimes creates the erroneous impression that the retail price index purports to embrace all that should be included in a desirable standard of living. As pointed out in para. 4, page 3 of this chapter, the "C" Series Index is a retail price index of specific meaning. As there indicated the regimen or list of items, on which the index is based, is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. While this statement remains broadly true, it relates (in the circumstances of 1951 and 1952) more specifically to what may be termed the basic wage portion of wage-earner expenditures. The index has hitherto been used by industrial tribunals to provide automatic adjustments; in the basic wage itself and, until December, 1950, in a basic wage which did not vary very much in real terms of purchasing power in relation to "C" Series units. In 1950 and especially in 1951 various factors produced both a steep rise in prices and an increasingly wide dispersion of price movements as affecting consumer expenditures on items within and without the index. Although the rise in some prices became less accentuated in 1952, disparate price movements continued. There arose concurrently a tendency to assume, without inquiry, that the index (constructed primarily to measure the incidence of price changes on expenditures from incomes at or about basic wage level) is equally applicable to such diverse matters as measuring the changing incidence of price variations on secondary or marginal portions of wages, on total wages or on total incomes in groups considerably higher than the basic wage, and even on money settlements in some business transactions. While such assumptions may be reasonably reliable during

<sup>\* 33</sup> C.A.R., p. 144; 37 C.A.R., p. 583; 44 C.A.R., p. 41; 68 C.A.R., p. 698.
† 50 C.A.R., p. 101.
† On 12th September, 1953 the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)

periods in which all prices tend to move together, they should not be made at any time without due inquiry and particularly not in periods when price movements are very marked and are subject to wide dispersion.

The following is a brief statement of the indexes considered or used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from time to

time:--

(i) "A" Series Index.—The "A" Series Index covers food and groceries and the rent of all houses, with the year 1911 as the base (1,000). This index was first compiled in 1912, and is available yearly for the six capital cities from 1901 to 1911, and quarterly for 30 important towns of Australia from 1912 to June Quarter, 1938, after which it was discontinued.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration adopted this Index in 1913 to determine the relative basic wage for towns throughout Australia, and to vary what is popularly known as the "Harvester" Basic Wage of 1907\*—the wage (42s. per week for Melbourne) declared by Mr. Justice Higgins to be sufficient to meet the "normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being, living in a civilized community." For this purpose the base index-number (1,000) of the series was selected by the Court as equivalent to a basic wage of 48s. per week. This index had very little application after May, 1933, because of the adoption by the Court successively of the "D" Series Index at that date, the "C" Series Index in May, 1934, and the "Court" Series Index in July, 1937.

- (ii) "B" Series Index.—The "B" Series Index covers food and groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-27 as the base (1,000), and is actually the food and rent constituent of the "C" Series Index described in (iii) below. This index was first compiled in 1925, and is available for the six capital cities for the years 1907 and 1911, and for the month of November of the years 1914 to 1920, and quarterly thereafter for the 30 important towns of Australia. It was designed to replace the "A" Series Index but was never used in connexion with the adjustment of wages by Industrial Tribunals. This series appears on pages 28 to 31 of this Report.
- (iii) "C" Series Index.—The "C" Series Index covers food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing (man, wife and three children); household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-1927 as the base (1,000). The regimen is published in full on pages II to I3 of this Report.

This index was constructed as the result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920, and the regimen adopted was substantially that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission with periodical adjustments as explained in this chapter. It was first compiled in 1921 and is available for the month of November for the six capital cities for the years 1914 to 1921, quarterly for these cities from June Quarter, 1922, and quarterly

for the 30 important towns from March Quarter, 1925 to date.

The index was not used in connexion with the variation of wages until its partial adoption by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in May, 1933, when the Court introduced the "D" Series Index explained below. In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted as from 1st May, 1934, the "C" Series Index as the sole basis for the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment, for which purpose the Court equated a "needs" basic wage of 81s. per week to the base indexnumber (1923–27 = 1,000) of the series. In its judgment of 23rd June,

<sup>\*</sup> For details of the "Harvester" Judgment see page 73.

1937, the Court adopted this index as the basis of the "Court" Index (First Series) for the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the Court's new basic

wage (see (vii) below).

(iv) "D" Series Index.—The "D" Series Index is a combination of the "A" and "C" Series Indexes, and was introduced by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. reduction in real wages determined by the Court in January, 1931. It came into operation from

Ist May, 1933.

The index had for its base the "A" Series Index for each town for December Quarter, 1929, which was varied according to the ratio of change indicated by the "C" Series index-number for the whole of 1929 and the corresponding "C" Series index-number of the town for the quarter for which the adjustment was to be made. It will thus be seen that, whereas the "D" Series Index for each town from December Quarter, 1929 fluctuated in the same way as the "C" Series Index for the same town, the relationship of different towns was that of the "A" Series Index for December Quarter, 1929, slightly modified by the difference in movement between the "A" Series and the "C" Series Indexes for each town since that quarter.

This Index was superseded as from 1st May, 1934, by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" Series Index. The index-numbers of this series were published in Appendix VIII. of Labour Reports Nos. 24

to 27.

(v) Food and Groceries.—The regimen of food and groceries is a component part of each of the series of retail price index-numbers mentioned above. Details of the regimen will be found on page II. This index was first compiled in 1912 and is available yearly for the six capital cities from 1901 to 1911 and monthly for the 30 important towns of Australia from 1912 to date. An index computed from the prices of food and groceries only was for a time used for the adjustment of old-age and invalid pensions, and also for the adjustment of the wages of members of the North Australian Workers' Union above the 20th parallel of South Latitude. Both these adjustments were later effected by means of the "C" Series Index, but the provisions for the adjustment of pensions were repealed as from 6th April, 1944.

(vi) The "200 Towns" Series.—This series was tabulated for the month of November each year in respect of 200 of the more important towns of the Commonwealth. Up to November, 1936, it covered the cost of food and groceries combined with the rent of 4 and of 5-roomed houses respectively, but thereafter the tabulation was limited to food and groceries only. This table has been used mostly in discussions of suitable relative rates for country towns, but the index-numbers have not been directly employed by industrial tribunals in this connexion. The base of this table is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in 1923-27 = 1,000. This series was compiled for the month of November for each year from 1913 to 1942, when tabulation was discontinued. It was originally confined to 100 towns, but was increased to 150 in 1915, and 200 in 1923. A reference to these index-numbers will be found on page 32.

(vii) The "Court" Index.—The "Court" Index was created by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, and operated from 1st July, 1937. Its purpose was to provide a set of index-numbers which would be published by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible

for the fixation and adjustment of wage-rates. Its introduction has the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the manner most convenient for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards. There have been three Series of the "Court" Index and the base of each Series has been related to the "C" Series Index (Base 1923–27 = 1,000). For each Series this relationship has been so determined that the weekly amount in shillings of basic wage ("needs" basic wage in the case of the First and Second Series) as subsequently adjusted for changes in price level, shall equal the "Court" Series index-number according to which it is adjusted. (A "Court" Series index-number ending in .5 or more is regarded as the next higher number for this purpose).

Particulars of the three "Court" Index Series are as follows:-

(a) The "Court" Index (First Series) (Base 1923-27 = 81.0). This index operated from 1st July, 1937, and a description of its construction is given on page 36 of Labour Report No. 34.

(b) The "Court" Index (Second Series) (Base 1923-27 = 87.0). This index operated from 1st December, 1946, and a description of its construction is given on page 38 of Labour Report No. 38. For a table of index-numbers under this Series for 1950 see

Section IV. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 40.
(c) The "Court" Index (Third Series) (Base 1923-27 = 103.0). On 23rd November, 1950, the Court announced that the new basic wage (i.e., the "needs" portion plus a standardized "prosperity" loading plus an additional 20s.), to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, would be adjustable, as from February, 1951, in accordance with the "Court" Index (Third Series).\* This "Court" Series is constructed (see page 79) by multiplying the "C" Series index-number (on 1923-27 base) by the factor 0.103. The result to the first decimal place (as it stands) is the corresponding "Court" (Third Series) index-number, which, as explained above, expresses in shillings the amount of basic wage as fixed by the Court for that index-number-with the proviso that any decimal point of .5 or more shall be regarded as the next higher number of shillings in the automatic adjustment scale. "Court" (Third Series) index-numbers are shown in Section IV. of the Appendix, and a "Ready Reckoner" for the weekly basic wage equivalents of "Court" (Third Series) and "C" Series index-numbers is shown at the end of the following section (see next page).

§ 11. Scales Used for Automatic Wage Adjustment.\*

The following table shows the automatic scales for quarterly, half-yearly or yearly adjustment adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in accordance with its announcement of 23rd November, 1950.\* As indicated in the preceding section, this automatic adjustment scale is applied to an amount of basic wage fixed by the Court after hearing evidence and argument by representatives of employers and employees covering a wide range of relevant factors (primarily relating to "capacity of industry to pay" and general economic conditions). The amount of wage shown constitutes the basic wage payable.

<sup>\*</sup> On 12th September, 1953 the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)

Automatic Scales for Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly Adjustment of Basic Wage.\* (As adopted by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, 23rd Nov., 1950 and operative as from Feb., 1951 until 12th Sept., 1953.) (See Appendix page 213.) + Basis-

(a) "C" Series Index.—Index-number 1,000 (Base 1923-27) = 103s. per week

(1s. = 9.708738), or £269 per annum (£1 = 3.717472).‡

(b) "Court" Index (Third Series).—"C" Series index-number 1,000 (Base 1923-27)

="Court" Index (Third Series) index-number 103.0. (One "C" Series " point " = 0.103.)

Index-numb	er Divisions.	Wage	Index-numbe	er Divisions.	
"C" Series Index.	"Court" Index (Third Series).	per Week.	"C" Series Index.	"Court" Index (Third Series).	Wage per Week.
1714-1723 1724-1733 1734-1742 1743-1752 1753-1762 1763-1771 1772-1781 1782-1791 1792-1800 1801-1810 1811-1820 1821-1830	176.5-177.4 177.5-178.4 178.6-179.4 179.5-180.4 180.5-181.4 181.5-182.4 182.5-183.4 184.5-185.4 184.5-186.4 185.5-186.4 186.5-187.4	£ s. d. 8 17 0 8 18 0 9 0 0 9 1 0 9 2 0 9 3 0 9 4 0 9 5 0 9 6 0 9 7 0	2064-2072 2073-2082 2083-2092 2093-2101 2102-2111 2112-2121 2122-2131 2132-2140 2141-2150 2151-2160	212.5-213.4 213.5-214.4 214.5-215.4 215.5-276.4 216.5-217.4 217.5-218.4 218.5-219.4 219.5-220.4 220.5-221.4 221.5-222.4 222.5-223.4	£ s. d.  10 13 0  10 14 0  10 15 0  10 16 0  10 17 0  10 18 0  10 19 0  11 1 0  11 2 0  11 3 0
1831-1839 1840-1849 1850-1859 1860-1868 1869-1878 1879-1888 1889-1898 1899-1907 1918-1927	188.5-189.4 189.5-190.4 190.5-191.4 191.5-192.4 192.5-193.4 194.5-195.4 195.5-196.4 196.5-197.4 197.5-198.4	9 9 0 9 10 0 9 11 0 9 12 0 9 13 0 9 14 0 9 15 0 9 16 0 9 17 0	2170-2179 2180-2189 2190-2199 2200-2218 2219-2228 2219-2227 2238-2247 2248-2257	223.5-224.4 224.5-225.4 225.5-226.4 226.6-227.4 227.5-228.4 228.5-229.4 229.5-230.4 230.5-231.4 231.5-232.4 232.5-233.3	III 4 0 III 5 0 III 6 0 III 7 0 III 8 0 III 9 0 III 10 0 III II 0 III 12 0 III 13 0
1928-1936 1937-1946 1947-1956 1957-1966 1967-1975 1976-1985 1986-1995 1986-2004 2005-2014 2015-2024 2025-2033 2034-2043	198.5-199.4 199.5-200.4 200.5-201.4 201.5-202.4 202.6-203.4 203.5-204.4 204.5-205.4 205.5-206.4 206.5-207.4 207.5-208.4 208.5-209.3 209.5-210.4	9 18 0 9 19 0 10 0 0 10 1 0 10 2 0 10 3 0 10 4 0 10 5 0 10 6 0 10 7 0 10 8 0 10 10 0	2267-2276 2277-2286 2287-2296 2297-2305 2316-2315 2316-2325 2326-2334 2345-2354 2355-2364 2365-2373 2374-2383 2384-2393	233.5-234.4 234.5-235.4 235.5-236.4 236.5-237.4 237.5-238.4 239.5-240.4 240.5-241.4 241.5-242.4 242.5-243.4 244.5-245.4 244.5-245.4 245.5-246.4	III 14 0 III 15 0 III 16 0 III 17 0 III 18 0 III 19 0 I2 0 0 I2 1 0 I2 2 0 I2 2 0 I2 3 0 I2 4 0 I2 5 0 I2 6 0
2044-2053 · · · 2054-2063 · · ·	210.5-211.4	IO II O IO I2 O	2394-2402	246.5-247.4 247.5-248.4	12 7 0 12 8 0

<sup>\*</sup> For "Court" (First Series) Equivalents (Base = 81.0) see Labour Report No. 34. page 38. For "Court" (Second Series) Equivalents (Base = 87.0) see Labour Report, No. 38, page 40.

†Formulae for Construction of Tables-

(a) "C" Series.—Let N = number of shillings in wage per week.  $9.708738 \times (N - .5) + I$  gives the first, and  $9.708738 \times (N + .5)$  gives the second of the pair of numbers in the index-number division for N shillings.

Decimal fractions in result are to be disregarded.

(b) "Court" Series.—Each "C" Series Index point = 0.103, and each of the first of the pair of index-number divisions for the "C" Series Index in the above table when multiplied by this factor gives to the first decimal place (as it stands) the first of the pair of index-number divisions for the "Court" Index (Third Series)—from which the second of the pair becomes obvious. (Note.—All "Court" Series index-numbers must be derived through their corresponding "C" Series index-numbers.)

‡ For general purposes, the Annual Rate (in £'s) is obtainable by multiplying the Weekly Rate (in shillings) by 2.6083333 [ie.,  $52\frac{1}{6}$  (weeks) divided by 20 (shillings)]—a decimal point of .5 or more being taken to the next higher £.

Both the amount of wage and the adjustment scale operate only until the Court otherwise determines, and representatives of employers and employees have the right to approach the Court for variation of the wage or for variation of the adjustment scale. As from February, 1951, the whole basic wage is adjustable for wages varied according to the "Court" Index (Third Series).\* Under the First and Second Series only the "needs" portion was varied.

## § 12. International Comparisons: Retail Price Index-Numbers.

The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices for various countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices for the year 1948 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

### Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries (a)

(Source: Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

(Base: 1948 = 100.)

	AUSTRALIA.	Вегетом.	BRAZIL.	CANADA.	CHILE.	DENMARK.	EGYPT.	FINLAND.	INDIA.	IRELAND.
Town or Number of Localities.	30	62	Sao Paulo.	64	San- tiago.	200	Cairo.	32	Bom- bay.	120
1939	71	27	24	65	24	61	36	13	35	56
1940	74 78 84 87 87 87 88	30   (c) 83 87	26 28 32 37 50 62 71	68 72 75 76 77 77 80 87	27 31 39 45 50 55 63 85	76 89 92 93 94 96 95	(b) 40 49 66 86 99 104 102	15 18 21 24 26 36 57 74	37 41 52 76 78 78 85 92	65 71 79 89 93 93 92 (b) 98
1948	100	100 97	1 <b>00</b> 98	100	100	100	1 <b>00</b> 99	100	100	100
1950 1951	120 146 170	96 105 106	104	(b)107 118	137 167 204	107 119	104 114 113	123 148 (b) 154	103	102 110 119
1952— March Qtr June ,,	162	108	123	122	186	122	117	154 154	106	115
Sept. ,,	173	105	137	120 120	215 216	124 124	106	154 155	111	123 124

<sup>(</sup>a) The index-numbers in the above table are based mainly on the prices of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items. (b) New index spliced to former index. (c) Based on fewer than twelve months.

<sup>\*</sup> On 12th September, 1953 the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)

### Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries\*-continued.

(Base: 1948 = 100.)

1	NETHER- LANDS. (e)	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	Peru.	SOUTHERN RHODESIA.	SWEDEN.	SWITZER- LAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.	URUGUAY.
Town or Number of Localities.	6	21	53	Lima.	5	60	34	9	200	34	Monte- video.
1939	47	75	64	29	70	67	62	68	(a) 103	58	58
1940	53	79	74	32	71	75	67	70	(a) 119	58	61
1941 1942 1943 1944 1945	61 66 68 (d)70 (d)80 (d)88	82 84 86 88 89 90	87 92 95 96 98	34 39 42 48 54 59	(c) 74 78 82 86 88 91	85 92 93 93 93	78 87 91 93 93	73 79 84 87 89	(a) 129 (a) 130 (a) 129 (a) 130 (a) 132 (a) 132	61 68 72 73 75 81	61 62 65 68 77 85
1947	91 94	93 100	101	76 100	93 <b>100</b>	96 <b>100</b>	97 1 <b>00</b>	95 1 <b>00</b>	(b) 94 100	93 1 <b>00</b>	98
1949	(c)100	(c)102	100	115	106	102	99	104	103	99	105
1950 1951 1952	109 122 122	107 119 129	(c)105 122 133	129 142 152	115 122 133	103 119 129	(c) 98 102 105	108 116 126	106 116 126	100 108 110	101 115 131
1952— March Qtr June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	120 121 122 122	126 128 129 130	130 131 135 136	147 150 153 156	129 132 134 134	127 131 131 131	105 105 105 105	123 124 126 129	123 126 127 128	109	127 129 133 136

 $<sup>{}^*</sup>$  The index-numbers in the above table are based mainly on the prices of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items.

### INDEX-NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

	AUSTRALIA.	BRAZIL.	CANADA.	CHILE.	DENMABK,	EGYPT.	FINLAND.	FBANCE. (c)	INDIA.	IRELAND.
Town or Number of Localities.	30	Sao Paulo.	64	San- tiago.	200	Cairo.	32	Paris.	Bom- bay.	120
1939	74	24	51	23	61	34	II	7	33	55
1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945	75 75 82 83 82 82 83	25 28 31 36 47 58 74	54 59 65 67 67 68 72	27 31 41 48 52 55 64	74 91 94 93 93 94 94	(a) 37 47 64 88 104 108	13. 16 19 21 21 33 52	8 9 10 13 17 23 39	36 40 52 72 76 78 91	62 68 76 84 89 90
1947	88 1 <b>00</b>	88 <b>100</b>	82 100	86 <b>100</b>	98 100	99 <b>100</b>	76 100	63 92	100	(a) 97 100
1949	III	96	104	115	101	102	103	(b) 100	105	100
1950	125 162	103	(a)106 121	134 169	118 131	111	118 126	111	109 115	100
1952	201	131	I2I	216	138	117	(a)135	141	118	118
1952— March Qtr June ,,	191 204 206 202	120 127 135 142	125 121 120 119	193 214 232 227	135 137 140 139	123 121 118 107	134 135 136 137	144 139 139 141	108 121 119 124	III II3 I24 I26

<sup>(</sup>a) New index spliced to former index.

<sup>(</sup>a) Base, 1937 = 100. (b) New index as from 17th June, 1947; cannot be linked to former series. Annual index-number for 1947 based on fewer than twelve months. (c) New index spliced to former index. (d) Based on fewer than twelve months. (e) Base, 1949 = 100.

<sup>(</sup>b) New index; base, 1949 = 100.

<sup>(</sup>c) Base, 1949=100.

### Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries-continued.

(Base: 1948 = 100.)

INDEX-NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD-continued.

	MEXICO.	NETHER- LANDS. (f)	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PERU.	SOUTHERN RHODESIA.	SWITZER- LAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.	URUGUAY.
Town or Number of Localities.	Mexi- co City.	6	21	. 53	Lima.	5	34	9	200	34	Monte-video.
1939	31	41 48	76 78	67 81	25 28	62 63	58 64	63 65	(a) 101 (a) 118	45 46	52
1941 1942 1943 1944 1945	31 36 46 59 64 83	58 63 64 (c) 66 (c) 67 (c) 78	80 82 82 83 83 83	96 100 102 102 103 104	32 35 39 45 50 54	(b) 68 71 74 76 78 81	76 87 92 94 94	70 77 84 88 90 92	(a) 121 (a) 116 (a) 119 (a) 121 (a) 122 (a) 122	50 59 66 65 66 76	54 56 60 62 74 83
1947 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	95 100	85 92	89 100	103	74 100	88 100	97 1 <b>00</b>	97 1 <b>00</b>	(d) 94 100	92 100	102
1949	104	b 100	<i>b</i> 103	99	116	106	99	103	105	96	100
1950 1951	108	111	113	b 108 127	134 150	121	b 100 103	109 116	113 126	97	91
1952	144	123	143	144	162	149	105	137	(e)105	IIO	129
March Qtr June ,, Sept. ,, Dec. ,,	140 144 146 146	124 124 122 122	138 142 145 147	138 141 149 148	158 159 163 166	146 152 151 149	104 105 106 106	132 135 137 142	100 106 107 108	109 110 112 110	121 126 131 136

<sup>(</sup>a) Base, 1937 = 100. (b) New index spliced to former index. (c) Based on fewer than twelve months. (d) New index as from 17th June, 1947 = 100; cannot be linked to former series. Annual index-number for 1947 based on fewer than twelve months. (e) Base, 15th January, 1952 = 100; cannot be linked to former series. (f) Base, 1949 = 100,

## CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

Two indexes of wholesale prices are compiled by the Bureau. These are—

(i) The Melbourne Wholesale Price Index;

(ii) The Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

Particulars of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, which is now

obsolescent, are given in § 3 commencing on page 47 below.

After reviewing the regimen and weighting of this index the 1930 Conference of Statisticians resolved that a new index of Wholesale Prices of Basic Materials and Foodstuffs should be compiled. This index extends back to the year 1928 and is compiled monthly. This Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index is a special purpose index and one of a series of Wholesale Price Indexes designed for special purposes.

## § 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

I. Price Quotations.—The prices used in the index have in the main been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants, and, with a few important exceptions, from Melbourne sources. Apart from locally produced building materials and one or two minor commodities, however, the price movements may be taken as representative of variations in wholesale prices of basic materials in most Australian markets.

Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and in respect of imported materials as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the local price structure. Thus the price of imported goods is not taken at the time of

import, but rather on an ex-bond (or into factory) basis.

Broadly, where home-consumption prices exist for local products, they have been used in this index. During the year 1950-51 wool for local manufacture was subsidized. The home-consumption price for wool was used to calculate the index-numbers shown in the table in paragraph 4, page 47.

- 2. Commodities and Grouping.—For purposes of this index "basic" materials (as opposed to certain of the Foodstuffs) are commodities in the primary or basic forms in which they first enter into productive processes carried out in Australia. The regimen comprises 80 commodities, divided into seven main groups. Each group is sub-divided into goods which are mainly imported, and goods which are mainly home-produced. A full list of these commodities is set out below, showing the quantity-multipliers (weights) for each commodity, and the percentage of the total aggregate value in 1950 contributed by each commodity and group.
- 3. **Method of Construction.**—The index is constructed on the simple aggregative fixed-weights formula. The weights (quantity-multipliers) are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928–29 to 1934–35 inclusive. Changes in usage, changes of category as between "imported" and "home-produced" as affecting some commodities, and changes in the industrial structure have affected the validity of some of the weights in the index. These and other problems (e.g., dual prices for some commodities) are being examined with a view to revision of the regimen, its grouping and weighting, when conditions are more stable.

### Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

Commodities in Regimen, Units of Measurement, Quantity-Multipliers, and Percentage Value-Weight in 1950.

Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity- multiplier. (Weight.)	Per- centage Value- weight 1950.	Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity- multiplier. (Weight.)	Per- centage Value- weight 1950.
Metals and Coal— Principally Imported— Aluminium	ton	985	0.05	Rubber and Hides— Principally Imported— Rubber, crude	lb.	24,214,400	1.17
Principally Home- produced—				Principally Home- produced—		//	
Iron and steel Briquettes Copper, wire	ton	637,000 243,000	3.19 0.14	Calf skins Cattle hides Tanning bark	lb. lb. ton	4,455,000 · 57,246,000 · 23,000	0,06 0.48 0.14
Coal	ton	7,000 9,300,000	0.38	Total			1.85
Lead, soft pig Tin, ingots Zinc, ingots	ton ton ton	10,400 1,250 14,800	0.13 0.26 0.20	Building Materials— Principally Im-			
Total			15.56	Timber, soft- woods	1,000	346,500	5.00
Oila Fota and					sup. ft.		
Oils, Fats and Waxes— Principally Im-				Turpentine Principally Home- produced—	gallon	458,000	0.07
ported— Coconut oil	ton	6,500	0.22	Bricks	ton	372,000 479,000	0.82
Fuel oil Linseed oil	ton gallon	170,000	0.70	Cement Drain-pipes Glass, window	foot	7,270,000 82,370	0.28
Lubricating oil	gallon	3,960,000	0.35		sq. ft.		0.07
Kerosene, power Petrol, 1st grade	gallon	21,000,000 78,000,000	0.50 3.02	Lime Plaster	ton	51,144 53,000	0.18
Petrol, 2nd grade Principally Home- produced—	gallon	140,000,000	5 · 43	Timber, hard- woods	100 sup. ft.	2,575,000	1.93
Beeswax Tallow	lb. ton	169,112 26,000	0.0I 0.23	White lead Whiting	ewt.	60,000 274,000	0.09
Total			11.14	Total			9.38
Textiles—				Foodstuffs and To-			
Principally Imported—				pacco— Principally Im-			
Hemp Kapok	ton lb.	5,575 6,160,000	0.45	ported— Tapioca	ewt.	719,000	0.59
Jute fibre	ton	874	0.04	Cocoa, raw	cwt.	99,500	0.47
Phormium tenax Silk, raw	ton lb.	2,275 455,900	0.02	Coffee	Ib. Ib.	3,469,000	0.23
Principally Home-		+55,900	0.20	Mustard	doz. lb.	47,000	0.02
cotton, raw	lb.	15,900,000	0.61	Herrings Salmon	doz. lb.	276,000 1,048,000	0.08
Wool, greasy	lb.	50,200,000	4.50	Sild	doz.	807,300	0.16
Total			6.21	Tobacco, leaf Principally Home-	lb.	17,451,000	7.21
Chemicals—			7	Barley	bushel	4,940,000	0.50
Principally Imported—				Maize Oats	bushel bushel	315,000	0.05 I.43
Ammonium sul-				Rice	cwt.	323,200	0.19
Potash, muriate	ton	23,830	0.16	Wheat Onions	ton	39,900,000	3·75 0.25
Potash, sul-	0011	4,033	0.04	Peas	bushel	644,000	0.18
phate Soda ash	ton	2,025	0.02	Potatoes	ton	348,000	2.28 3.87
Soda asii Soda, nitrate	ton	1,100	0.13	Beef	ioo lb.	7,004.750	8.88
Soda, nitrate—	+			Lamb	lb.	83,119,000	1.54 4.65
Chilean Sulphur	ton	3,600 95,500	0.03	Mutton	lb. lb.	436,414,000 47,562,000	I.24
Principally Home-		33,330	.,,	Butter fat	lb.	194,500,000	5.28
produced— Arsenic	ton	1,531	0.03	Lard	lb. gallon	1,427,000	0.02 4.70
Blood and bone	ton	34,431	0.03	Currants	lb.	9,900,000	0.14
Methylated spirits	gallon	2,374,000	0.09	Sultanas Grapes	lb.	18,000,000	0.28
Soda crystals	ton	4,986	0.02		UUII	94,000	
Superphosphate Sulphuric acid	ton	704,144	1.65	Total			51.91
Total	ton	226,450	3.95	All Groups— Principally Importe Principally Home-p	ed		31.78 68.22
		-		To	otal		100.00

4. **Index-Numbers.**—Index-numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups combined for the index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs are given in the following table. Current index-numbers, on the base: Average of three years ended June, 1939 = 100, are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*.

Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index-Numbers, 1928 to December, 1952.

(Base of each Group: Year 1928 = 100.)

		(-	Dase of	eacn	Group	: 1 ea	1920	== 100	)-)			
				Bas	ic Mater	ials.					Materi Foodstu	
	Period.	Metals and Coal.	Oils, Fats and Waxes.	Tex- tiles.	Chemi- cals.	Rub- ber and Hides.	Build- ing Mat- erials.	Total.	Food- stuffs and To- bacco.	Goods princi- pally Im- por- ted.		All Groups
1928		 !00	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929 1930 1931 1932 1933		 95 89 83 82	102 108 109 107 88	83 61 57 54 62	98 95 98 98	77 55 58 53 56	98 100 101 98 100	98 93 92 88 83	107 95 81 79 78	101 105 111 108 101	103 92 79 76 75	103 95 87 84 81
1934 1935 1936 1937 1938	• •	 79 • 74 72 79 80	82 88 91 95	66 62 76 87 61	89 82 82 82 83	60 59 72 89 66	98 97 99 110 104	80 79 82 91 88	81 85 91 93 96	103 105 113 109	75 76 81 84 85	81 83 87 91
1939 1940 1941 1942 1943	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	 81 84 88 97 103	97 123 134 151 160	65 78 82 93	84 97 106 116 118	76 93 98 104 106	105 127 137 154 181	90 104 112 125 135	95 100 104 119 121	111 134 156 180 199	86 90 91 101 103	92 101 107 120 126
1944 1945 1946 1947 1948		 103 103 102 107 129	160 153 142 142 159	108 108 119 165 234	118 117 116 116	106 106 104 94 100	183 184 187 194 204	135 133 131 137 157	122 126 128 137 156	200 198 194 202 217	104 106 107 114 135	127 128 128 135 155
1949 1950 1951 1952		 160 179 235 299	166 179 196 216	254 382 475 408	138 179 229 277	96 155 248 193	213 258 327 432	175 208 261 304	175 202 246 275	225 263 299 324	156 183 235 273	173 203 251 286
Fek Mar Apr Mar Jur Jul Aus Sep Oct	nuary oruary rch ril y ne	 272 286 287 291 298 308 310 314 307 307	210 210 210 210 216 217 217 217 217 221 223 223	434 402 362 371 401 409 415 404 423 423 437	258 261 269 269 269 272 283 288 287 288 288	204 199 198 198 210 224 211 182 179 176 168 171	382 413 414 414 454 454 456 438 439 441 441	285 293 291 294 307 308 313 310 311 311 311	252 266 274 279 278 282 287 280 268 265 276	313 323 323 325 330 330 330 322 322 323 322 324	249 261 265 270 276 280 286 287 282 273 272	265 276 280 283 289 292 297 295 292 285 284 290

### § 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

I. General.—An index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912. It relates chiefly to basic materials and foods weighted in accordance with consumption in the years immediately preceding that date. Neither the component items of the regimen nor the weighting have been varied. Consequently, the index is outmoded for current use and is a measure of variations in wholesale prices based on the weighting originally determined. It has some historic significance as a measure of changes in the prices of its component items combined in the proportions in which they were in common use about the year 1910. It is now published only

on an annual basis and is mainly used as an approximate indication of long-term trends since the year 1861, for which it was first compiled. A description of the index and a list of the commodities included in it were published on pages 43 to 45 of Labour Report No. 38 for 1949.

2. Index-Numbers.—1861 to 1952 (1911 base)—Index-numbers for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined, are shown in the following table:—

Melbourne Wholesale Price Index-Numbers, 1861 to 1952. (Base of each Group: Year 1911 = 1,000.)

			(20000		Growp .	- 000, 19	- 1	,000.,		
Yea	ar.	Metals and Coal.	Wool, Cotton, Leather, &c.	Agricul- tural Pro- duce, &c.	Dairy Produce.	Grocer- ies.	Meat.	Building Materials.	Chemi- cals.	All Groups
1861 1871 1881 1891		1,438 1,096 1,178 895	1,381 1,257 1,115 847	1,583 1,236 1,012 1,024	1,008 864 935 995	1,963 1,586 1,421 1,032	888	1,070 1,044 1,091 780	2,030 1,409 1,587	1,538 1,229 1,121
1901		1,061	774	928	1,029	1,032	1,345	841	1,194 917	945 974
1902		1,007	756 834	1,192	1,215	945	1,447	837	881	1,05
1904		821	885	# 754	876	936 916	I,443 I,427	875 845	921 875	1,049
1905		772 882	850 978	894 916	980 972	942 923	1,209	809 896	859 864	910 948
1907 1908		1,037	1,017	973 1,312	1,020	948	1,294 1,335	968 935	961 891	1,021
1909		1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910		1,004	1,052	969 1,000	1,100	1,000	1,008	1,000	898 1,000	1,003
1912		1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1914		1,040	1,070	1,097	1,054	I,024 I,02I	1,252	1,128	995 1,253	1,188
1915		1,284	1,017	2,162	I,530 I,485	1,133	2,435 2,515	I,275 I,491	1,528	1,604
1917		2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1919		2,121	2,360	1,444	1,454	I,422 I,514	2,385	2,686 2,852	3,225	1,934
1920 1921	• • •	2,302	2,625	2,460 1,767	2,213	1,920	3,279	3,226	2,834	2,483 1,903
19:22		1,941	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923		1,826	2,148	1,778	1,840 1,655	1,746	2,579	2,024	1,933	1,944
1925		1,851	1,966	1,796	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1927		1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,623	1,866	1,817
1928 1929		1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	I,744 I,755	1,923	1,792
1930		1,867	1,127	1,484	1,627	I,666	2,024	1,875	1,982	1,596
1932		1,736	998	1,230	1,390	1,794	1,351	2,025	2,166	1,429
1933		1,713	1,118	1,175	1,194	1,714	1,485	2,061	2,105	1,409
1935		1,602	1,201	1,200	I,274 I,325	1,735	1,540	2,015 1,964	2,017 1,996	1,471
1936		1,566	1,330	1,480	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,907	1,543
1937		1,772	1,406	1,604	1,451	I,750	1,678	2,430	2,006	1,656
939		1,758	1,101	1,820	1,557	1,752	1,710	2,220	2,075	1,665
1940		1,854 1,960	1,361	1,567 1,721	1,567 1,554	1,784 1,883	1,882	2,890 3,138	2,298	1,713
942		2,146	1,507	1,900	1,665	1,938	2,3,12	3,409	2,437	1,977
1943		2,272	1,945 1,967	1,964 2,052	1,716	I,939	2,366	3,764 3,768	2,442	2,117 2,159
945		2,270	1,960	2,259	1,726	1,967	2,560	3,770 3,770	2,527	2,228 2,162
947		2,390	2,690	2,019	1,763	2,174	2,748	3,800	2,843	2,360
948		2,829 3,502	3,619 3,966	2,383 2,876	2,104	2,435	2,976	4,631	3,180	2,824
950		3,902	5,464	3,155	2,459	2,550	3,356 4,616	4,611 (a) 5,567	3,221	3,191 3,816
951		5,080	7,943	4,512	2,930	2,850		(a) 7,074	3,294	5.098
952		6,481	7,365	5,038	4,024	3,455	6,289	(a) 9,338	3,723	5,647

Note.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

<sup>(</sup>a) The regimen and weighting of the original Building Materials group of this index have become unreal. The movement shown here for this group between 1949 and 1952 has been calculated in accordance with the movement occurring in the Building Materials group of the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index.

## § 4. International Comparisons: Wholesale Price Index-Numbers.

The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices for the period 1939 to December, 1952, for Australia and other countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices in each country for the year 1948 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

### Index-Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Various Countries.

(Source: Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

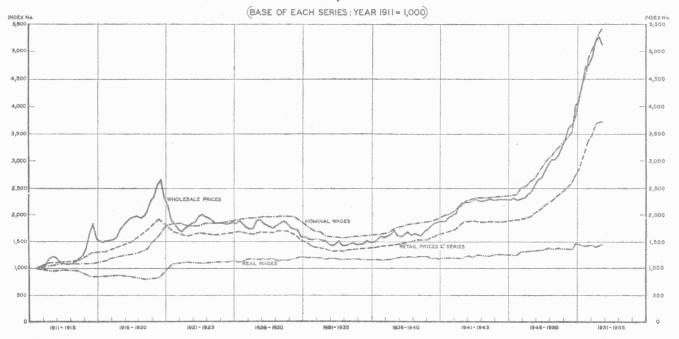
(Base: 1948 = 100.)

	Period.	AUSTRALIA	Brazil.	CANADA.	CHILE.	DENMARK.	EGYPT.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	INDIA.	IRELAND.
1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951		 59 65 69 78 81 82 83 87 100 112 132 163 184	28 29 36 43 49 53 61 (a) 71 86 100 110 127 154 172	51 56 60 64 66 68 68 72 84 100 103 109 124 117	28 30 35 48 53 55 58 68 (a) 87 100 114 134 175 217	46 68 80 84 84 85 84 83 91 100	32 39 49 63 80 95 101 98 92 100 94 104 116	11 15 18 22 25 28 40 63 76 100 101 116 166 166	(b) 100 108 138	109	45 57 64 73 82 85 85 85 85 100
1952-	ch Qtr.	 176 185 190 185	168 167 174 177	120 117 116 114	195 211 230 232	150 144 140 139	121 114 111 105	172 166 160 161	145 151 145 144 140	106	129 127 128 128 130

										OF	Uni	TED DOM.	OF
Banana	Period.		MEXICO (MEXICO CITY).	NETHER- LANDS.	NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	PERU (LIMA).	SWEDEN	SWITZEB- LAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.	Board of Trade.	Econo- mist.	STATES O
1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1951			38 39 42 46 56 69 76 88 93 100 110 120 148 154	37 46 53 56 57 58 64 89 96 100 104 117 143 140	58 65 71 77 82 85 86 86 90 100 99 126 140	56 73 90 95 96 97 98 93 97 <b>100</b> 102 115 143	27 30 35 44 51 53 55 59 100 140 163 192 201	54 68 80 88 92 91 87 93 100 101 100 140 148	48 62 79 90 94 96 95 96 <b>100</b> 95 94 105	56 62 68 76 83 86 87 89 100 106 113 129	47 62 70 73 74 76 77 80 88 <b>100</b> 105 120 146	46 59 65 69 70 72 74 78 91 <b>100</b> 104 119 138	48 49 55 62 64 65 66 76 93 100 95 99 110 107
March June Sept. Dec.		::	155 156 153 152	144 140 137 138	139 139 140 142	150 150 155 156	199 204 203 197	150 150 149 144	104 102 101 101	144 147 150 151	152 149 148 149	140 138 137 136	108 107 107 106

<sup>(</sup>a) New index linked to former index. (b) New index; base, 1949 = 100.

# WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL, AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGES - INDEX-NUMBERS AUSTRALIA, 1911 to 1952



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the graph above are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices up to the fourth quarter of 1927, which are for Melbourne. The wholesale prices graph shows the trend of prices according to the "old" Melbourne Index up to the fourth quarter of 1927, but thereafter, this index having been "spliced" with the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index, the curve line moves in accordance with the variations of the latter. The price quotations for this index are, in the main, obtained from Melbourne sources, but their movements may be taken as representative of fluctuations in most Australian markets. For the period 1911–1914 the "C" Series index-numbers are taken back from the true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses). Real wages are computed on the basis of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

### CHAPTER III.—WAGES AND HOURS.

## § 1. Arbitration and Wages Board Acts and Associated Legislation.

- I. General.—Particulars regarding the operation of Commonwealth and State Laws for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913, and reviews to the end of each annual period appear in previous issues of the Labour Report. A conspectus of Acts in force relating to Workers' Compensation is included in this issue in Chapter IV. (see page 137).
- 2. Laws Regulating Industrial Matters.—The principal Laws in force regulating rates of wage, hours of labour, and working conditions generally in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions at the end of 1952 are listed below:—

### COMMONWEALTH.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1952.
Defence Transition (Residual Provisions) Act 1952.
Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1952.
Coal Industry Act 1946–1952.
Stevedoring Industry Act 1949.
Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949–1952.
Navigation Act 1912–1952.

### STATES.

New South Wales ... Industrial Arbitration Act 1940-1952.

Coal Industry Act 1946-1951.

Victoria .. Factories and Shops Acts 1928–1951.

Queensland .. Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts 1932 to 1952.

South Australia .. Industrial Code 1920–1951.

Western Australia . . Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952.

Mining Act 1904-1952.

Tasmania . . . . Wages Boards Act 1920–1951.

3. **Methods of Administration.**—(i) Commonwealth—(a) Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Tribunal.—Under placitum (xxxv) of section 51 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, the Commonwealth Parliament is empowered to make laws with respect to "conciliation and arbitration for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State". The Parliament has made such a law, namely, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

This Act defines "an industrial dispute" as a "dispute (including a threatened, impending or probable dispute) as to industrial matters, which extends beyond the limits of any one State and a situation which is likely to give rise to a dispute as to industrial matters which so extends". Such disputes are dealt with, in part, by a Court constituted under the Act, and otherwise by Conciliation Commissioners appointed under the Act. At the present time, the Court comprises a Chief Judge and six other Judges, whilst there is a Chief Conciliation Commissioner and twelve other Conciliation Commissioners.

The Act provides that where a State award or determination is inconsistent with an award issued by the Commonwealth Authority, the latter shall prevail, and the Commonwealth Court can also restrain a State Authority from proceeding in a matter already covered, or being dealt with, by the Commonwealth Authority.

During the 1939-45 War, the powers of the Court were considerably enlarged under National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations to secure the prompt settlement of industrial disputes. The Defence Transition (Residual Provisions) Act 1952 provides for the continuation of awards, orders, determinations or decisions made under these National Security Regulations unless revoked by a Commonwealth or State industrial authority.

The allocation of the respective powers and functions of the Court and the Conciliation Commissioners is defined by Statute. The Court deals with industrial disputes in so far as they concern the standard hours of work in an industry, the basic wage for both adult males and adult females and questions relating to long service leave with pay, but all other matters in dispute are dealt with by a Conciliation Commissioner. There is, however, provision for a Conciliation Commissioner to refer any dispute or any part of a dispute to the Court for determination, but a Conciliation Commissioner is only entitled to so refer a matter if he is of the opinion, and if the Chief Judge concurs in that opinion, that the matter is one of such importance that, in the public interest, it should be dealt with by the Court.

In addition to the functions outlined above, the Act empowers the Court to make orders concerning the interpretation, and relating to the enforcement, of orders and awards. The Act also makes provision for the registration of associations of employees and employers, and certain powers in connexion therewith are, by the Act, given to the Court.

Although, in certain circumstances, there is a right of approach to the High Court with respect to decisions of the Court, the circumstances are very limited, and, for practical purposes, it can be said that decisions given by the Court are final. Decisions given by a Conciliation Commissioner, however, may be made the subject of appeal to the Court (i.e., the Arbitration Court) provided the party desiring to appeal can satisfy the Chief Judge, by way of application for leave to appeal, that the order or award the subject of the application deals with a matter of such importance that leave to appeal should, in the public interest, be granted.

Whilst many of the minor powers of the Court may be exercised by a Court constituted by one Judge, in all major matters, e.g., questions relating to the basic wage, standard hours of work, long service leave, applications concerning registered organizations and also appeals from orders or awards made by Conciliation Commissioners, the Court must be constituted by at least three Judges one of whom may be the Chief Judge.

The Conciliation Commissioners have been given wide powers, without technical and artificial hindrances, to go to the cause of impending industrial trouble in the particular industries to which they have been assigned and to endeavour to remove the cause of the trouble by conciliating the disputants. If this fails, the Conciliation Commissioner should then, but not until then, with no further formalities, act in an arbitral capacity to prevent or settle the dispute by making an award or order. Prior to 1947, there was no division of work as between the Court and Conciliation Commissioners, a dispute being dealt with by either one or other part of the Tribunal, with the exception that questions relating to the basic wage and standard hours could

only be dealt with by at least three Judges of the Court sitting together. There was also, at that time, a right of appeal to the Court against a decision of a Conciliation Commissioner. The amending Act of 1947 brought about the division of work between the two parts of the Tribunal, and, at the same time, made decisions of Conciliation Commissioners final. However, a further amending Act passed in 1952 gives the Full Court (consisting of not less than three judges) power to hear appeals from decisions of Conciliation Commissioners, from decisions of single judges appointed to deal with industrial disputes in the maritime industry and the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme and from decisions of the Public Service Arbitrator. From 19th December, 1952, jurisdiction for the settlement of interstate disputes in the maritime industry has been transferred from a Conciliation Commissioner to a single judge of the Court. The Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Power Act 1951 also gives a single judge of the Court power to hear and determine industrial disputes affecting employees working on this project.

(b) Coal Industry Tribunal.—The Coal Industry Tribunal was established under the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act No. 40 of 1946 and the New South Wales Coal Industry Act No. 44 of 1946 to consider and determine interstate disputes and, in respect of New South Wales only, intra-State disputes between the Australian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation and employers in the coal-mining industry.

Special war-time bodies were created to deal with specific aspects of the coal industry, reference to which was made in previous issues of the Labour Report (see No. 41, page 53), but under amending legislation passed jointly by the Commonwealth and New South Wales Parliaments in 1951 the Tribunal was vested with authority to deal with all interstate industrial disputes in the coal-mining industry, irrespective of the trade union involved and in the case of New South Wales intra-State disputes also. The Tribunal consists of one person who may appoint two assessors nominated by the parties to advise him in matters relating to any dispute. Subsidiary authorities are the Local Coal Authorities and Mine Conciliation Committees who may be appointed to assist in the prevention and settlement of certain disputes. An amendment to the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act passed in 1952 makes it obligatory for the Tribunal to use conciliation and arbitration to settle industrial disputes.

(c) Australian Stevedoring Industry Board.—The Australian Stevedoring Industry Board (established under the Stevedoring Industry Act 1949) replaced the Stevedoring Industry Commission set up in 1947 in continuation of war-time authorities. The functions of the Board are the regulation and control of the performance of stevedoring operations, the development of port facilities, the provision of labour for stevedoring operations, the payment of attendance money, the establishment of employment bureaux and the provision of medical facilities and amenities for waterside workers. The Board is responsible for registration of employers and waterside workers and may delegate any of its powers to Waterside Employment Committees.

The arbitral jurisdiction formerly exercised by the Stevedoring Industry Commission to prevent and settle industrial disputes and regulate industrial matters in the industry is now vested in the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and is exercisable by a single judge, who may refer questions of law for the opinion of the Full Court.

- (d) Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator.—Wages, hours of labour and working conditions in the Commonwealth Public Service are regulated by the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator, under powers conferred by the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1952. The system of arbitration commenced to operate in 1912, cases being heard by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, as part of the ordinary work of that Court. From 1920, however, the control was transferred to the Arbitrator, who is appointed by the Government for a term of seven years, and who need not necessarily have legal qualifications. In 1952 legislation was enacted providing for right of appeal to the Full Court from decisions of the Arbitrator.
- (e) Australian Capital Territory Industrial Board.—The regulation of industrial matters in the Australian Capital Territory under a local Industrial Board commenced in the year 1922. An amending Ordinance gazetted on 19th May, 1949, however, abolished the Board and transferred its functions to authorities established by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. A separate Registry of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was established in Canberra. Industrial matters formerly dealt with by the Industrial Board are now determined either by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration or by the Conciliation Commissioner assigned to the Australian Capital Territory.

Details of the provisions relating to the Board during its period of jurisdiction may be found in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 37

(see No. 36, p. 51).

- (ii) STATES—(a) New South Wales.—The controlling authority is the Industrial Commission of New South Wales consisting of a President Subsidiary tribunals are the Conciliation Commisand five other Judges. sioners, the Apprenticeship Commissioner, Conciliation Committees and Apprenticeship Councils constituted for particular industries. Conciliation Committee consists of a Conciliation Commissioner as chairman and equal representatives of employers and employees. The Apprenticeship Commissioner and the members of the Conciliation Committee for an industry constitute the Apprenticeship Council for the industry. These subsidiary tribunals may make awards binding on industries, but an appeal to the Industrial Commission may be made against any award. Special Commissioners with conciliatory powers only may be appointed. Compulsory control commenced in 1901, after the earlier Acts of 1892 and 1899 providing for voluntary submission of matters in dispute had proved abortive.
- (b) Victoria.—The authorities are separate Wages Boards for the occupations and industries covered, each consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees, and a Court of Industrial Appeals, the latter presided over by a Judge of the County Court. The system was instituted in the State in 1896, and represents the first instance in Australia of legal regulation in this sphere.
- (c) Queensland.—The authority is the Industrial Court, consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court and not more than four members appointed by the Governor in Council. Legal control was first instituted in 1907 with the passing of the Wages Board Act.
- (d) South Australia.—The principal tribunal is called the Industrial Court; there are also Industrial Boards consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees for the various

industries, and a Board of Industry. The Court is composed of the President (a person eligible for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court) who may be joined by two assessors who must be employed in the industry concerned. Deputy Presidents may also be appointed. The "Living Wage" is declared by the Board of Industry, composed of the President or Deputy President of the Industrial Court and four Commissioners. Legal control was first instituted in 1900.

(e) Western Australia.—The system of control comprises an Arbitration Court, Industrial Boards, Conciliation Committees and a Conciliation Commissioner. Employers and employees are equally represented on both Boards and Committees. The Court consists of a Judge of the Supreme Court and two members. Commissioners may also be appointed by the Minister for the settlement of particular disputes. Legal control dates back to 1900.

Since 1949, legislation has provided for the appointment of a Western Australian Coal Industry Tribunal to settle intra-state disputes in the coalmining industry in Western Australia. It was not, however, until April, 1952, that persons were appointed to the Tribunal. The Tribunal consists of a Chairman and four other members (two representatives each of employers and employees). Boards of reference may be appointed by the Tribunal and decisions of the Tribunal may be reviewed by the President of the Arbitration Court.

- (f) Tasmania.—The authority consists of Wages Boards for separate industries, comprising a Chairman, appointed by the Governor, and equal numbers of representatives of employers and workers, appointed by the Minister administering the Act. The system was instituted in 1910.
- 4. Awards, Determinations, and Agreements in Force.—Considerable extension of the principle of the fixation of legal minimum and marginal rates of wage and of working conditions has taken place since 1913 when the tabulation of such statistics was first undertaken by the Bureau, and until 1939 figures showing approximately the magnitude of these operations were published in this Report. Since that year their publication has ceased owing to great difficulties in obtaining precise data for reasons explained in part in the following paragraph.

With reference to the number of industrial awards and registered industrial agreements in force at the end of any period, awards and determinations made by both State and Commonwealth tribunals generally continue in force after the term of operation mentioned therein has expired, until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent order or award. Clause 48 (2) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that, after the expiration of the period specified, the award shall, unless the Court otherwise orders, continue in force until a new award has been made; provided that, where in pursuance of this sub-section an award has continued in force after the expiration of the period specified in the award, any award made by the Court for the settlement of a new industrial dispute between the parties may, if the Court so orders, be made retrospective to a date not earlier than the date upon which the Court first had cognizance of that dispute. In the Industrial Code of South Australia, Clause 47 (2), and in legislation for other States, similar provisions are in force. All industrial agreements continue in force after the expiration of the term mentioned until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent agreement or order. The Tasmanian Wages Boards Act 1934 repealed Part IV. of the Principal Act providing for industrial agreements and all such agreements ceased to operate from the commencement of the Act unless an agreement existed in a trade to which no determination of a Board was applicable, in which case the agreement remained in force until its expiry or until a determination was made.

- 5. New Legislation and Special Reports.—Information concerning the main provisions of various Industrial Acts in force throughout Australia was given in earlier Reports, and brief reviews are furnished each year of the more important aspects of new industrial legislation having special application to the terms of awards or determinations. The period January to December, 1952, is covered by this Report.
- (i) Commonwealth.—The Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1952 transferred the authority to make provisions in awards relating to annual leave and sick leave from the Court to Conciliation Commissioners. Matters in dispute can be referred from a Conciliation Commissioner to the Full Court and appeals can be made from decisions of Conciliation Commissioners to the Full Court.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1952 and the Public Service Arbitration Act 1952 provided for appeals to the Full Court from decisions of Tribunals set up by these Acts.

The Navigation Act 1952 inserted a new Part (XA., Industrial Matters) in the Principal Act. This part gives a single Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration authority to hear and determine interstate industrial disputes in the maritime industry. Appeals can be made from the decisions of the single Judge to the Full Court.

The Coal Industry Act 1952 made it obligatory for the Coal Industry Tribunal to use conciliation and arbitration when determining industrial disputes in the coal-mining industry.

- (ii) New South Wales.—The provisions in the Industrial Arbitration Act relating to long service leave have been amended. Pro-rata long-service leave has been granted to employees who are forced to terminate their employment and the effect of industrial disputes, slackness of trade and the transfer of businesses on the continuity of service of employees has been defined.
  - (iii) Victoria.—The Factories and Shops Acts were not amended in 1952.
- (iv) Queensland.—The main provision of amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts in 1952 was the granting of thirteen weeks long-service leave to employees after twenty years continuous service. Payment of long-service leave and annual leave is to be made at actual (as distinct from award) rates of pay. Easter Saturday has been added to the list of holidays. Other provisions dealt with sick leave, payment for holidays, records to be kept by unions and the recovery of wages.
- (v)  $South\ Australia.$ —There were no amendments made to the Industrial Code in 1952.
- (vi) Western Australia.—Amendments to the Industrial Arbitration Act in 1952 affected provisions dealing with trade union rules and records, the

election of union officials, secret ballot of union members, re-registration of trade unions, and other matters. The Court has been given power to cancel or suspend its orders or awards.

(vii) Tasmania.—The Wages Boards Act was not amended during 1952.

(viii) Australian Capital Territory.—There was no special industrial legislation affecting only the Australian Capital Territory passed in 1952. However, legislation passed by the Commonwealth Parliament (see para. 5(i) above) covered employees in the Territory.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. General.—The collection of data respecting the nominal rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries carried on in each State was first undertaken by this Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. Owing to the difficulty of ascertaining reliable particulars of the numbers of apprentices, improvers and other juvenile workers to whom progressive rates of wage fixed according to increasing age or experience were payable from year to year, the inquiry was confined to the rates of wage payable to adult workers only, and was further limited generally to those industries in operation within the metropolitan area of each State. In order to make the inquiry comprehensive, however, certain industries were included which were not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, shipping, agriculture, and the pastoral industry. The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations and industrial agreements under Commonwealth and State Acts, and related to the minimum wage prescribed. In cases where no award, determination or agreement was in force, the ruling union or predominant rate of wage was ascertained from employers and secretaries of trade unions. For convenience of comparison weekly rates of wage were adopted. In many instances, however, the wages were based on daily or hourly rates, since in many industries and occupations in which employment is casual or intermittent wages are so fixed; hence the average weekly earnings in such occupations may fall short of the computed weekly rates. The information thus obtained referred to the weekly rate of wage in upwards of 400 specific occupations. Rates of wage were of course not available for each of these occupations in every State but the aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 1,569 male occupations or callings. These particulars furnished the necessary data for the computation of average rates of wage in various industrial groups,\* and in each State and Australia as a whole. The average rate of wage for each industrial group in each State was computed by taking the arithmetical average† of the rates of wage payable for all classified occupations within that group. A more detailed system of weighting could not be applied owing to the difficulty in the past of obtaining satisfactory data as to the number of persons engaged in each of the occupations for which rates of wage had been obtained. Though a considerable amount of information as to the number of persons engaged in different industries and occupations was available from subsequent Census results, it was found impracticable to bring the classification of these results into line with the detailed classification of occupations in the various industries as set out in the awards and determinations. For final results for each State and for each industrial group throughout the States, however, a careful system of weighting according to industrial groups was adopted. For example, in

The adopted classification of industries is shown on page iii.
 The sum of the weekly rates of wage divided by the number of occupations included.

computing the result for any State in any period, the computed average wage in each industrial group was multiplied by a number (weight) representing the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group of industries in the particular State. The sum of the products thus obtained, divided by the sum of the weights, represented the average wage for that State for the particular period. The weights used for each industrial group in the computations of the average wage for male and female occupations were published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 20 of 1929.

The results thus ascertained for the year 1913 were published in Labour Report No. 2, pp. 28-43. In the early part of the year 1914, the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended, and particulars included of the weekly rates of wage in respect of 930 specific occupations. The aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 The results obtained thereby to 30th April, male and 308 female). 1914, were published in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 44-50. These results were further analysed, and the average number of working hours which constituted a full week's work in each occupation was ascertained and weighted in a similar manner to the rates of wage. This course was adopted in order to overcome the difficulty of making comparisons between States of the rates of wage in any specified occupation, since, in many instances, a different number of working hours constituted a full week's work in different States. By dividing the weighted average number of working hours into the weighted average weekly rate of wage, a more satisfactory standard of comparison was ascertained. Results obtained from these computations were given for each industrial group for each State.

Since 30th April, 1914, the number of occupations included in comparative computations has been slightly reduced. When technical change or some other factor has led to the disappearance of the original occupation from an award, agreement, or determination, the usual practice has been to substitute a similar occupation with a comparable rate of wage. In some cases, however, such a substitution could not be made and the slight drop in the total number of occupations included has resulted. The particulars of wages given in the Appendix (Sections VII. and VIII.) to this Report include all the more important occupations. These have been taken from awards or determinations made by industrial tribunals, or from agreements registered under Commonwealth or State Acts.

To supplement the results thus obtained, investigations were made regarding rates of wage in past years with a view to showing their general trend in each State and in the several industrial groups. The total number of occupations for which particulars were available back to 1891 was 652.

The particulars given in this chapter show variations in nominal wages from year to year in each State and in various industrial groups. Index-numbers are also given showing variations in effective wages in each State. The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

A comparison of wage rates and hours of labour for certain occupations in Australia, Great Britain and Northern Ireland and New Zealand will be found in Section IX. of the Appendix.

2. Adult Male Weekly Wages—States, 1891 to 1952.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified for a full week's work in each State and Australia. Index-numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000):—

### Weekly Wage Rates(a): Adult Males, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index-numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
No. of Occupations included. $(b)$	870	894	615	562	477	466	3,884

### RATES OF WAGE.

					-					
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
RIST	December,	1891		44 I	40 5	46 6	41 7	52 4	38 6	43 5
, ,	,,	1901	 	43 II	40 9	46 2	42 0	53 11	36 10	43 5
. ,,	,,	1911		.51 5	50 6	51 I	· 51 II	59 0	4I 0	51 3
, ,	,,	1914	 	56 2	54 7	53 5	54 5	62 10	52 8	55 7
, ,	17	1921	 	95 10	93 7	96 8	89 5	95 0	91 8	94 6
7.9	,,	1929	 	I02 II	IOI I	IOI 2	97 2	100 7	94 8	IOI 2
2.2	,,	1931		93 5	82.2	89 0	75 0	84 I	79 9	86 10
,,	,,	1941	 	105 4	104 5	101 9	100 3	IIO 2	99 3	104: 3
12	,,	1947	 	I4I 3	136 10	134 9	133 10	137 8	133 0	137 11
,,	,,	1948	 	159 9	155 5	151 4	153 7	156 6	153 2	156 4
,,	,,	1949	 	171 11	.168 11	167 10	165 3	171 6	165 4	169 8
,,	,,	1950	 	209 6	204 5	199 10.	200 6	208 3	199 7	205 6
,,	,,	1951	 	255 0	245 5	240 IO	241 8	251 4	247 3	248 7
31st	March, 195	12	 	263 6	254 11	254 3	250 9	260 o	255 5	258 I
30th	June, 1952	2		270 5	258 2	262 5	256 6	269 2	261 3	264 3
	September		 	281 8	269 II	263 9	268 7	277 9	268 8	273 II
	December,		 	284 8	274 5	267 9	274 6	284 7	276 2	278 2

### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (518, 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

31st De	cembe	r. 1801		861	789	908	811	1,022	751	848
,,	2.2	1901	 	858	796	901	819	1,052	719	848
"	- 1	IOII	 	1,003	985	997	1,013	1,152	799	1,000
,,	,,	1914	 	1,096	1,065	I,042	1,062	· 1,226	1,028	1,085
2.2	,,	1921	 	1,869	1,826	1,886	1,745	1,853	1,788	1,844
,,	11	1929	 	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,074
2.7	11	1931		1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
11	, ,	1941		2,056	2,037	1,985	1,957	2,149	1,937	2,034
7.7	,,	1947	 	2,757	2,670	2,630	2,612	2,686	2,595	2,690
,,	, ,	1948	 	3,117	3,032	2,953	2,997	3,054	2,988	3,050
, ,	,,	1949	 	3,355	3,296	3,276	3,225	3,346	3,227	3,310
,, .	,,	1950		4,088	3,989	3,900	3,911	4,064	3,895	4,009
,,	,,	1951	 	4,975	4,789	4,699	4,715	4,904	4,825	4,850
31st Ma			 	5,141	4,974	4,961	4,892	5,074	4,984	5,036
30th Ju			 	5,277	5,037	5,121	5,005	5,253	5,097	5,156
30th Se	ptemb	er, 1952	 	5,496	5,267	5,147	5,241	5,419	5,242	5,345
31st De	cember	r, 1952	 	5,555	5,354	5,224	5,356	5,553	5,388	5,428

<sup>(</sup>a) The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

(b) As at 31st December, 1952.

3. Adult Male Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1891 to 1952.—The following table shows for Australia (a) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index-numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Wage Rates(a): Adult Males, Industrial Groups.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index-numbers of Wage Rates in Each Industrial Group.

							In	DUSTRIAL	GROUP.						
Date.	I. Wood, Furni- ture, etc.	II. Engineer- ing, etc.	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manu- factur- ing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mining, etc.	IX. Bailways, etc.	X. Other Land Trans. port.	XI. Shipping, etc.(b)	XII. Pastoral,	XIII. Domestic, etc.(c)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Industrial Groups.
						RAT	ES OF V	VAGE.							
31st December, 1891  " " 1901  " 1911  " 1914  " 1921  " 1931  " 1939  " 1947  " 1948  " 1949  " 1950  31st March, 1952  3oth June, 1952  3tst December, 1952  3tst December, 1952  3tst December, 1952  3tst December, 1952	8. d. 52 5 52 3 57 8 59 8 20 104 10 85 7 100 1 108 5 140 2 155 6 166 1 238 8 249 1 255 5 266 1 270 2	s. d. 47 8 48 8 54 6 57 98 2 103 6 86 3 99 3 1100 1165 10 1198 2 237 1 247 0 252 10 264 4 267 10	8. d. 38 2 444 7 50 9 55 8 93 10 100 10 88 6 96 9 106 1 134 8 151 6 2 199 11 239 3 249 9 256 10 268 0 271 5	8. d. 36 8 36 3 50 3 50 3 53 0 93 6 83 11 93 2 105 7 132 8 153 7 164 2 202 10 242 10 242 10 252 9 258 6 269 11 273 6	8. d. 53 5 51 0 58 11 63 10 104 7 119 1 102 0 114 3 119 6 158 7 177 2 228 9 274 5 284 9 290 6 302 0 302 0	8. d. 46 4 46 5 51 11 56 0 95 0 102 2 85 4 95 8 107 0 136 8 133 11 165 1 199 0 238 10 238 10 248 10 255 2 248 10	8. d. 50 6 53 10 61 2 65 5 112 65 5 113 0 98 9 106 5 116 11 154 0 171 9 215 11 259 0 269 10 276 5 290 2 293 21	8. d. 58 I 54 8 61 2 65 2 105 4 110 7 102 5 109 I 115 I 148 4 110 3 5 175 7 211 0 249 2 259 3 266 10 278 0 281 8	8. d. 50 10 52 4 57 0 59 8 97 5 105 2 86 7 96 6 108 8 142 3 156 1 167 3 199 2 238 0 248 3 255 0 266 0 269 4	8. d. 39 6 40 9 46 7 52 8 90 2 96 2 96 10 11 128 6 145 8 160 0 192 7 233 2 243 8 260 6	8. d. 38 5 44 7 49 10 101 8 107 8 107 6 106 9 136 4 182 0 136 4 182 0 2271 II 282 3 288 6 299 I	s. d. 3+ 10 32 1 43 0 49 5 80 0 95 6 80 3 84 0 93 6 136 5 158 1 174 7 222 2 279 1 286 0 291 1 294 4 300 11	s. d. 32 IO 30 8 45 5 47 II 84 2 92 6 85 3 89 II 141 5 186 8 224 8 234 8 240 II 252 3 255 8	s. d. 39 7 38 10 47 7 54 0 91 1 96 8 83 11 92 10 101 2 130 10 148 3 148 3 1492 9 232 0 242 0 248 0 259 10	8. d. 43 5 43 5 51 3 55 7 94 6 101 2 86 10 95 3 104 3 137 11 156 4 205 6 248 1 258 1 264 3 273 11 278 2
3130 12000111001, 1932	-7,0						EX-NUME		01) 7		200				
0									1s. 3d.), I			680	641	773	848
31st December, 1891	1,023 1,019 1,125 1,161 1,916 2,046 1,669 1,953 2,116	931 945 1,064 1,127 1,915 2,019 1,683 1,930 2,147	745 871 991 1,085 1,832 1,967 1,727 1,888 2,071	716 708 981 1,034 1,819 1,942 1,638 1,817 2,060	1,043 996 1,149 1,246 2,040 2,323 1,991 2,229 2,332	904 907 1,013 1,093 1,854 1,994 1,664 1,867 2,088	986 1,050 1,213 1,276 1,999 2,205 1,926 2,076 2,282	1,134 1,067 1,194 1,272 2,056 2,157 1,999 2,142 2,245	992 1,021 1,113 1,165 1,901 2,052 1,690 1,884 2,121	772 795 910 1,026 1,760 1,888 1,638 1,812	745 751 871 972 1,984 2,087 1,596 1,922 2,082	627 839 965 1,736 1,863 1,566 1,639 1,825	598 887 935 1,642 1,804 1,663 1,755	759 929 1,054 1,778 1,886 1,637 1,811	848 1,000 1,085 1,844 1,974 1,694 1,858 2,034
", ", 1947 ", ", 1948 ", ", 1949 ", ", 1950 ", ", 1951 ", ", 1951 ", ", 1952 ", ", 1952 ", ", 1952 ", ", 1952 ", ", 1952	2,735 3,034 3,250 3,896 4,656 4,860 4,984 5,192 5,272	2,811 3,041 3,241 3,867 4,626 4,820 4,934 5,158 5,226	2,628 2,956 3,243 3,901 4,668 4,872 5,012 5,229 5,296	2,589 2,997 3,204 3,957 4,738 4,932 5,044 5,266 5,337	3,094 3,457 3,796 4,463 5,355 5,555 5,668 5,892 5,959	2,667 3,003 3,221 3,883 4,661 4,856 4,979 5,204 5,272	3,005 3,352 3,570 4,212 5,054 5,265 5,394 5,661 5,735	2,895 3,189 3,426 4,118 4,861 5,059 5,206 5,424 5,495	2,775 3,045 3,263 3,887 4,643 4,845 4,976 5,190 5,256	2,507 2,843 3,123 3,757 4,550 4,752 4,871 5,084 5,150	2,661 3,551 3,753 4,491 5,306 5,507 5,629 5,835 5,914	2,662 3,085 3,497 4,335 5,445 . 5,580 5,680 5,743 5,871	2,476 2,759 3,020 3,643 4,384 4,578 4,700 4,922 4,989	2,553 2,893 3,161 3,761 4,527 4,723 4,839 5,053 5,128	2,690 3,050 3,310 4,009 4,850 5,036 5,156 5,345 5,428

<sup>(</sup>a) See note (a) to table on page 59. (b) Including the value of victualling and accommodation, where supplied. (c) Including the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

4. Adult Female Weekly Wages—States, 1914 to 1952.—The indexnumbers given in the preceding paragraphs for male adult workers were computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000). In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index-numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

## Weekly Wage Rates(a): Adult Females, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index-numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
No. of Occupations included. $(b)$	84	87	38	47	24	32	312

#### RATES OF WAGE.

-										
7				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. 0
318t 1	Jecem b	er, 1914		 26 10	27 9	27 I	24 I	37 4	25 IO	27
2.2	2.2	1921		 49 0	47 IO	50 3	45 2	56 4	47 6	48
2.2	2.2	1929		 53 II	54 I	54 10	51 4	58 10	53 9	54
3.2	, ,	1931		 49 8	45 IO	47 11	43 I	51 7	45 8	
22	,,	1939		 53 3	51 9	55 2	49 7	55 8	50 8	
12	11	1941		 57 11	58 4	59 6	55 5	23	50	
		7		37	30 4	39 0	33 3	00 4	56 7	58
12	,,	1947		 84 3	88 6	85 10	80 IO	8о г	81 11	0 =
22	,,	1948		 100 0	103 I	98 4	95 I			85
,,	11	1949		 108 1	112 4	108 5		93 5	1 2	100
22		1950		139 II			101 0	105 5	106 4	109
7.2	2.2	1930		 139 11	142 11	135 11	I42 I	132 3	137 2	140
arst. N	farch, 1	051		T / / 0	716 5					
noth I	June, 19	951		 144 3	146 7	137 11	145 9	134 6	I4I 2	144
30011 6	James, 19	121		 151 0	153 11	145 0	152 4	142 7	149 0	151
30m	septem	er, 1951		 157 11	160 O	I49 2	158 3	146 10	153 9	157
31St 1	Decembe	er, 1951		 171 I	172 10	161 7	171 4	163 2	168 7	170
31st N	Iarch, 1	952	1	 178 3	180 7	170 9	178 10	169 10	175 0	177 I
30th J	June, 19	52		 183 1	184 3	175 11	183 4	175 5	179 10	0
30th S	Septemb	er, 1952		 191 10	193 2	181 10	192 5	182 5	186 8	
RIST I	ecembe	er, 1952		103 11	196 2	0				190
,	COULTRO	-, -95-		 193 11	190 2	184 4	195 8	186 o	191 2	193

### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

						1		
31st December, 1914	 	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
,, ,, 1921	 	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	1,074	1,749	1,790
,, ,, 1929	 	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
,, ,, 1931	 	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
,, ,, 1939	 	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
,, ,, 1941	 	2,133	2,148	2,191	2,038	2,220	2,082	2,141
,, ,, 1947	 	3,102	3,256	3,160	2,976	2,947	3,014	3,152
,, ,, 1948	 	3,681	3,795	3,618	3,499	3,438	3,559	3,694
,, ,, 1949	 	3,979	4,134	3,990	3,716	3,880	3,915	4,015
,, ,, 1950	 	5,150	5,259	5,003	5,229	4,866	5,050	5,169
31st March, 1951	 	5,308	5,395	5,075	5,363	4,951	5,197	5,303
30th June, 1951	 	5,558	5,666	5,337	5,606	5,248	5,484	5,565
30th September, 1951	 	5,811	5,889	5,491	5,825	5,404	5,660	5,786
31st December, 1951	 	6,296	6,362	5,948	6,305	6,007	6,204	6,268
31st March, 1952	 	6,562	6,646	6,283	6,583	6,250	6,441	6,549
30th June, 1952	 	6,738	6,783	6,474	6,748	6,457	6,618	6,712
30th September, 1952	 	7,061	7,108	6,691	7,082	6,714	6,872	7,020
31st December, 1952	 	7,138	7,220	6,784	7,202	6,846	7,037	7,120

<sup>(</sup>a) See note (a) to table on page 59.

<sup>(</sup>b) As at 31st December, 1952.

5. Adult Female Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1914 to 1952.—The following table shows for Australia (a) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups in which females are mainly employed, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index-numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

## Weekly Wage Rates(a): Adult Females, Industrial Groups.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index-numbers of Wage Rates in Industrial Groups.

				INDUSTRIA	AL GROUP.		
Date.		III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	I., II., V., and VI. All Other Manu- facturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.(b)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups.
		RA	TES OF V	VAGE.			
31st December, 1914		s. d. 23 5 43 9	s. d. 24 II 48 7	s. d. 27 0 48 0	s. d. 30 2 48 6	s. d. 31 4 50 0	8. d. 27 5 48 8
,, ,, 1921 ,, ,, 1929 ,, ,, 1931 ,, ,, 1939 ,, ,, 1941		43 9 49 4 44 4 48 9 53 5	54 4 45 5 50 9 57 4	53 II 46 II 51 II 58 O	54 9 50 9 54 5 58 9	53 10 49 10 56 8 60 7	54 I 47 5 52 8 58 2
,, ,, 1947 ,, ,, 1948 ,, ,, 1949 ,, ,, 1950		83 3 95 10 105 5 135 9	87 7 101 7 109 5 139 2	90 2 103 3 111 11 147 1	76 7 89 3 97 5 132 1	88 5 107 9 119 1 149 9	85 8 100 4 109 1 140 5
gist March, 1951 goth June, 1951 goth September, 1951 gist December, 1951 gist March, 1952 goth June, 1952 goth June, 1952 gist December, 1952		141 8 146 10 155 8 164 2 171 10 175 10 184 3 186 8	140 8 149 8 152 2 169 6 177 0 181 4 189 6	152 10 158 5 168 3 177 1 184 9 188 10 198 1 200 9	137 0 142 4 151 5 160 10 168 5 173 0 180 11	156 I 161 4 170 8 179 10 187 10 192 6 201 4 203 10	144 1 151 2 157 2 170 4 177 11 182 4 190 9
(Base: Weighted 2	4verage		DEX-NUM r Australia		, 30th Apr	ril, 1914 =	1,000.)
31st December, 1914		862	917	994	1,110	1,153	1,008

	11 21) 11 71	1914 1921 1929 1931 1939	 862 1,609 1,815 1,630 1,795 1,967	917 1,789 1,999 1,672 1,869 2,110	994 1,766 1,984 1,728 1,910 2,134	1,110 1,787 2,015 1,869 2,003 2,163	1,153 1,841 1,982 1,834 2,085 2,229	1,008 1,790 1,990 1,746 1,938 2,141
	;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;; ;;	1947 1948 1949 1950	 3,064 3,526 3,879 4,996	3,222 3,739 4,026 5,121	3,317 3,802 4,118 5,412	2,820 3,284 3,586 4,861	3,253 3,967 4,384 5,512	3,152 3,694 4,015 5,169
30 31 31 30	est March, 195 th June, 195 th September est December, est March, 195 th June, 195 th September est December	1 1, 1951 1951 52 2	 5,213 5,404 5,728 6,043 6,323 6,471 6,781 6,869	5,176 5,508 5,601 6,238 6,514 6,674 6,975 7,081	5,626 5,829 6,194 6,517 6,801 6,951 7,291 7,389	5,042 5,239 5,572 5,919 6,197 6,366 6,658 6,755	5,744 5,938 6,283 6,618 6,912 7,085 7,411 7,501	5,303 5,565 5,786 6,268 6,549 6,712 7,020 7,120

6. Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1952 .- (i) General .- The rates of wage referred to in the preceding paragraphs are the minima payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime). The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in some instances, between various trades and occupations

<sup>(</sup>a) See note (a) to table on page 59. (b) Including the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. To secure what may be for some purposes a better comparison, the results in the preceding paragraphs are reduced to a common basis, namely, the rate of wage per hour in industrial groups in each State and in all States. In the Appendix (Sections VII. and VIII.) details are given of the number of hours worked per week in the various industries. The following tables include the average number of hours per week in industrial groups for each State.

The tables show (a) the average weekly wage; (b) the average number of working hours per week for a full week's work; and (c) the average hourly wage for adult male and female workers in each State and industrial group except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Some of the occupations included in the latter two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or in other ways. Hence the necessary definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage are not available.

(ii) Adult Males.—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1952.

Weekly and Hourly Wage Rates and Weekly Hours of Labour (a) : Adult Males, Industrial Groups.

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1952.

		-						
Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc {	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	279/2 40.00 6/II <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	268/3 40.00 6/8½		40.00	40.00		
H. Engineering, Metal	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	273/IO 40.00 6/IO1	263/8 40.00 6/7	40.00	264/II 40.00 6/7½		40.00	40.00
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	275/10 40.00 6/10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	277/I 39·93 6/II4		272/4 40.00 6/94	272/0 40.00 6/9½	40.00	39.98
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc $\left\{\right.$	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	271/0 40.00 6/9½	272/II 40.00 6/I0	40.00	279/4 40.00 6/II4			40.00
▼. Books, Printing, etc {	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	312/5 40.00 7/94	305/8 39·51 7/84		299/11 40.00 7/6	37.69	305/10 40.00 7/74	
VI. Other Manufacturing $\dots \bigg\{$	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	277/2 40.00 6/II1	266/4 40.00 6/8	249/2 40.00 6/24			40.00	
♥II. Building {	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	305/5 39·94 7/74	289/7 40.00 7/2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	275/4 40.00 6/10½		292/6 40.00 7/3 <sup>3</sup> /4		293/11 39.98 7/44
VIII. Mining( $d$ )	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	284/2 40.00 7/11/2	275/5 40.00 6/104	267/5 40.00 6/84		c300/3 38.15 7/10½		281/8 39.69 7/14
IX. Rail and Tram Services $\left\{ \right.$	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	277/3 40.00 6/111	267/6 40.00 6/81	255/9 40.00 6/4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	263/2 40.00 6/7			269/4 40.00 6/8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
X. Other Land Transport	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	273/II 40.00 6/I04	258/I 40.00 6/5½	245/3 40.00 6/1½	259/8 40.00 6/6			263/II 40.00 6/7‡

<sup>(</sup>a) See note (a) to table on page 59. (b) Weighted average. (c) Excludes district allowances in the gold-mining industry. (d) Average rates of wage and hours prevailing at the principal mining centres in each State.

## Weekly and Hourly Wage Rates and Weekly Hours of Labour(a): Adult Males, Industrial Groups—continued.

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1952—continued.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
XI. Shipping, etc	Weekly Wagecd	301/6	306/0	302/0	303/6	304/1	304/11	303/1
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	Weekly Wagede	306/0	295/0	300/1	299/6	307/6	289/9	300/11
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage(e) Working Hours Hourly Wage(e)	264/4 40.00 6/7‡	40.00		40.00	40.00	250/5 40.00 6/3	40.00
XIV. Miscellaneous $\dots \bigg\{$	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	271/6 40.00 6/9½	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	258/IO 40.00 6/54	40.00
All Groups(b)	Weekly Wage	284/8	274/5	267/9	274/6	284/7	276/2	278/2
All Groups except XI. $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \text{All Groups} & \text{except} & \text{XI.} \\ \text{and XII.}(b) & \dots & \end{array} \right.$	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	278/5 39·99 6/11½	269/I 39.98 6/84	40.00	40.00	39.51		39.9

<sup>(</sup>a) See note (a) to table on page 59. (b) Weighted average. (c) Average rates of wage are for occupations other than Masters, Officers and Engineers in the Merchant Marine Service, and include value of victualling and accommodation, where supplied. (d) Definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage are not available. (e) Includes the estimated value of board and lodging, where supplied.

(iii) Adult Females.—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1952.

### Weekly and Hourly Wage Rates and Weekly Hours of Labour (a) : Adult Females, Industrial Groups.

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1952.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vie.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
III. Food, Drink, etc	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	188/2 40.00 4/8½	187/9 40.00 4/81		40.00	190/10 40.00 4/94	40.00	
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc {	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	190/7 40.00 4/91	191/9 40.00 4/9½	40.00	40.00	40.00		192/5 40.00 4/9 <del>4</del>
I., II., V., & VI. All Other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	202/I 40.00 5/03		185/10 40.00 4/7 <sup>3</sup>	40.00		192/6 40.00 4/94	40.00
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc {	Weekly Wage(c) Working Hours Hourly Wage(c)	40.00	192/1 40.00 4/9½		40.00	174/11 40.00 4/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	40.00	40.00
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	204/II 40.00 5/I½	211/3 40.00 5/3½	40.00	40.00			203/I0 40.00 5/I4
<b>All Groups</b> (b)	Weekly Wage Working Hours Hourly Wage	193/11 40.00 4/101	196/2 40.00 4/103	40.00		40.00	40.00	40.00

<sup>(</sup>a) See note (a) to table on page 59. (b) Weighted average. (c) Includes the estimated value of board and lodging, where supplied, in order that the rate may be comparable with those paid in other industries.

7. Adult Male Hourly Wages—States, 1914 to 1952.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers in each State at the dates specified. Index-numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

#### Hourly Wage Rates(a): Adult Males, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates (to the nearest farthing) payable and Index-numbers of Hourly Rates.

Date.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tas- mania.	Australia.

#### RATES OF WAGE.

31st De	ecember, 1912 ,, 1929 ,, 1931	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	8. d. I 134 I 103 2 144 I 74 I 111	s. d.  I $4\frac{1}{4}$ 2 I 2 $2\frac{3}{4}$ I $10\frac{1}{2}$ 2 4	s, d, I I I II½ 2 0½ I 8¾ 2 0	s. $d_{\bullet}$ 1 2 2 $0\frac{3}{4}$ 2 3 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $2\frac{1}{2}$
"	,, 1939 ,, 1941	22		2 51/4	2 34	2 74	2 3	$25\frac{1}{4}$
;; 79 79	,, 194' ,, 194' ,, 1950	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	3 I ½ 1 3 9 4 4 9 4 9 4 5 9	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	3 I 3 9½ 4 I 4 II 5 II	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
,,	,, 195	-4		$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$6 7\frac{1}{2}$	$7  0\frac{3}{4}$	6 83/4	6 9½

#### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (13.96d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st De	ecember	1914 1921 1929 1931 1939 1941	1,010 1,817 2,011 1,873 1,963 2,138	990 1,741 1,895 1,527 1,834 2,071	985 1,865 2,001 1,749 1,979 2,092	993 1,637 1,808 1,383 1,692 1,956	1,173 1,796 1,923 1,617 2,001 2,240	936 1,675 1,751 1,480 1,717 1,938	1,009 1,779 1,940 1,676 1,903 2,098
99 99 99 99 99	99 99 99 99	1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952	2,974 3,399 3,654 4,393 5,318 5,985	2,709 3,322 3,605 4,318 5,142 5,785	2,638 3,180 3,463 4,047 4,756 5,464	2,692 3,246 3,484 4,142 4,948 5,697	2,754 3,364 3,691 4,430 5,319 6,066	2,648 3,254 3,515 4,230 5,079 5,782	2,797 3,327 3,599 4,301 5,153 5,833

<sup>(</sup>a) Weighted average hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for some of the occupations classified in Industrial Groups XI. and XII. See also note (a) to table on page 59.

<sup>3666.-4</sup> 

8. Adult Female Hourly Wages—States, 1914 to 1952.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers in each State at the dates specified. Indexnumbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

### Hourly Wage Rates(a): Adult Females, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates (to the nearest farthing) payable and Index-numbers of Hourly Rates.

	Date.		New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tas- mania.	Australia.
				Rati	es of Wa	GE.			
31st	December,	1914 1921 1929 1931 1939	s. d. 0 6½ 1 1 1 2¾ 1 1½ 1 2½ 1 3¾	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	s. d. o 6½ I I¼ I 3 I I I 4¼	s. d. 0 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 0 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 1 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 0 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 1 1 1 3	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	8. d. 0 6\frac{3}{4} 1 0\frac{3}{4} 1 2\frac{1}{2} 1 0\frac{3}{4} 1 2\frac{1}{4} 1 3\frac{3}{4}
39 77 99 99 77	22 29 22 22 22	1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	2 7 2 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 3 6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 4 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	I II½ 2 5½ 2 8½ 3 444 4 0½ 4 7½	I II  2 4½ 2 6¼ 3 6½ 4 3½ 4 10¾	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	I 10\frac{1}{4} 2 5 2 8 3 5\frac{1}{4} 4 2\frac{1}{2} 4 0\frac{1}{4}	I II34 2 6 2 834 3 64 4 3

#### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (6.64d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st De	ecember	r, 1914 1921 1929 1931 1939 1941	983 1,965 2,218 2,044 2,193 2,387	1,035 1,878 2,154 1,822 2,107 2,387	983 1,989 2,252 1,943 2,267 2,444	881 1,770 2,015 1,688 1,952 2,274	1,364 2,215 2,333 2,045 2,217 2,477	920 1,794 2,108 1,791 2,032 2,324	1,009 1,923 2,182 1,910 2,145 2,387
22 22 23 23 23 23	>> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>	1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952	3,646 4,518 4,884 6,322 7,729 8,762	3,634 4,658 5,074 6,455 7,810 8,863	3,527 4,441 4,898 6,142 7,301 8,328	3,464 4,295 4,562 6,419 7,741 8,840	3,289 4,220 4,762 5,973 7,373 8,404	3,363 4,369 4,806 6,199 7,616 8,639	3,593 4,535 4,929 6,345 7,694 8,739

9. Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour—Adult Males, States.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult male workers in each State and Australia at 31st December, 1914 to 1952. Index-numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime)(a): Adult Males, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full
Working Week and Index-numbers of Hours of Labour.

	Date.		New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tas- mania.	Australia
			V	EEKLY H	OURS OF	LABOUR.			
31st	December,		49.35	48.66	48.64	48.59	48.18	48.62 46.84	48.87
9.9	27	1921	45.66	46.95 46.83	45·52 43·96	47.07	46.24 45.58	47.09	45.34
22	>>	1929 1931	44.I4 44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
"	"	1939	43.92	44.61	43.46	45.83	44.33	45.33	44.29
,,	. ""	1941	43.68	44.12	43.43	44.49	43.13	44.42	43.83
,,	*1	1947	41.11	43.68	43.18	42.84	43.15	43.27	42.51
"	2>	1948	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.57	40.00	39.96
12	22 -	1949	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
,,	2.9	1950	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
,,,	2.2	1951	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
,,	,,	1952	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (48.93), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

		-							
31st De	ecembe	r, 1914 1921 1929 1931 1939	1,009 933 902 904 898 893	994 960 957 958 912 902	994 930 898 919 888 888	993 962 957 957 937 909	985 945 932 931 906 881	994 957 962 956 926 908	999 945 927 930 905 896
?? ?? ?? ?? ??	;; 9; 2; 3; 2; 2;	1947 1948 1949 1950 1951	840 817 817 817 817 817	893 817 817 817 817 817	882 817 817 817 817 817	876 817 817 817 817 817	882 809 808 808 807 807	884 817 817 817 817	869 817 817 817 816 816

<sup>(</sup>a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for some of the occupations classified in Industrial Groups XI. and XII. See also note (a) to table on page 59.

10. Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour—Adult Females, States.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult female workers in each State and Australia at 31st December, 1914 to 1952. Index-numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime)(a): Adult Females, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full

Working Week and Index-numbers of Hours of Labour.

	Date.		New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tas- mania.	Australia
			V	VEEKLY F	Iours or	LABOUR.			1
31st D	ecembe	er, 1914 1921 1929 1931 1939 1941 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951	49·34 45·06 43·93 43·93 43·88 43·88 43·88 40·00 40·00 40·00 40·00 40·00	48.54 46.04 45.40 45.44 44.42 44.19 43.99 40.00 40.00 40.00 40.00	49.82 45.66 44.01 44.56 44.01 44.00 40.00 40.00 40.00 40.00	49.33 46.10 46.03 45.96 44.00 42.19 40.00 40.00 40.00 40.00	49.44 45.97 45.57 45.57 45.38 44.00 40.00 40.00 40.00 40.00	50.76 47.86 46.07 46.07 45.10 44.00 40.00 40.00 40.00 40.00	49.II 45.69 44.79 44.88 44.36 44.03 43.08 40.00 40.00 40.00 40.00
	(Base	: Weight	ed Avera		K-NUMBER		<i>April</i> , 191	4 = 1.00	0.)

31st D	ecembe	1914 1921 1929 1931 1939 1941	1,005 918 895 895 894 894	989 938 925 926 905 900	1,015 930 897 908 897 896	939 938 938 938 936 896	1,007 937 928 928 925 896	1,034 975 939 939 919 896	1,001 931 913 914 904 897
2.2	2.7	1947	851	896	896	860	896	896	878
3.9	9.9	1948	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
9.7	9.9	1949	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
77	99	1950	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
,,	,,	1951	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
9.2	5.9	1952	814	814	814	814	814	814	814

(a) See note (a) to table on page 59.

vage rates are said to be nominal when they represent changes in the wage rates themselves but are described as effective or real when they represent changes in equivalent purchasing power, that is, the purchasing power of the corresponding wages in terms of some definite composite unit or regimen the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between nominal and effective or real wages was discussed at some length in Labour Report No. 6, and was also referred to in Labour Report No. 11.

Since it is possible to measure purchasing power over more than one composite unit or regimen it is equally possible to convert any given nominal wage series into more than one series of effective or real wages. Prior to 1936 it was the practice of the Bureau to compute effective wage indexnumbers by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series). While wage rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" series index-numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. When the Commonwealth Court abandoned the "A" series, the merits of

<sup>\*</sup> For explanation of "A" series, see page 38.

the "C"\* series of retail price index-numbers for "deflating" nominal wage rates were strengthened. The "C" series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements. As the computation of the "A" series index by this Bureau was discontinued after the June quarter, 1938, real wages are measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "C" series only. A table showing for each State and for Australia real wages to the end of 1937 measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "A" series appeared in previous issues of the Labour Report (see No. 38, page 70).

(ii) Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—Adult Males, States, 1911 to 1952.—The following table shows for the period 1911 to 1952 the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). The index-numbers for 1911 are based on rates current at the end of December, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and subsequent years, however, the index-numbers have been computed from the average of the rates current at the end of each quarter.

Nominal Wage(a) Index-Numbers: Adult Males, States.

(Base: Weighted Average Weekly Wage(a) for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.						And department of	1941.	-				-		
N.S. Wales Victoria Queensland S. Australia W. Australia Tasmania	985 997 1,013	1,062 1,035 1,061	1,803 1,879 1,697	1,964 1,976 1,891	1,683 1,769 1,580	1,808 1,885 1,725	2,024 1,984 1,981 1,897 2,106 1,895	2,403 2,384 2,285 2,424	2,585 2,580 2,496 2,597	2,909 2,840 2,841 2,888	3,200 3,146 3,150 3,226	3,584 3,548 3,503 3,638	4,450 4,377 4,376 4,557	5,150 5,113 5,124 5,325
Australia	1,000	1,081	1,826	1,972	1,752	1,846	1,997	2,400	2,598	2,914	3,210	3,596	4,495	5,241

(a) For a full week's work (excluding overtime).

(iii) Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers—Adult Males, States—1911 to 1952.—In obtaining the effective wage index-numbers in the following table the nominal wage index-numbers shown above have been divided by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000.

Since the "C" series index-numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed for the purpose of the following table that fluctuations between 1911 (the base of the table) and 1914 in the "C" series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" series.

Effective or Real Wage(a) Index-Numbers for Adult Males: Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "C" series regimen.

(Base: Weighted Average Real Wage(a) for Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
N.S. Wales Victoria Queensland S. Australia W. Australia Tasmania		954 1,022 914	1,084 1,227 1,034	1,164 1,290 1,099	1,200 1,336 1,137	1,180 1,306 1,147	1,187 1,187 1,240 1,158 1,279 1,142	1,260 1,314 1,229	1,312 1,367 1,291 1,348	1,355 1,379 1,341 1,377	1,303 1,407 1,362 1,379	1,381 1,453 1,388 1,426	1,429 1,498 1,439 1,477	1,432 1,494 1,430 1,479
Australia	1,000	948					1,194				1,367	1,389	1,439	1,438

In the above table the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index-numbers are

<sup>\*</sup> For explanation of "C" series, see page 38.

comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the *effective* wage index-number for any State over any period of years.

As retail prices (as shown by the "C" series index), rose by 16.7 per cent. in 1952, while nominal wages rose by 16.6 per cent., the effective wage index-number fell from 1,439 to 1,438. Index-numbers of nominal and effective wages as well as total and average weekly earnings for periods subsequent to 1952 appear in the Monthly Review of Business Statistics.

- (iv) Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers—Adult Males, Australia—1901 to 1951. In Labour Report No. 40, page 70, a table was included showing, at intervals from 1901 to 1929 and for each year 1931 to 1951, similar index-numbers for Australia as a whole under both the "A" and "C" series. For the reason referred to above, index-numbers under the "A" series could not be published beyond 1937.
- 12. **Productive Activity.**—The preceding tables show the movement in real (or effective) wages, i.e., wages measured in terms of retail purchasing power. A parallel problem is the measure of productivity, i.e., the quantity of production (irrespective of prices) in relation to population or persons engaged in production. The tables formerly published in this Section relating to gross value of Australian production, material production per head of population and per person engaged in material production (see Labour Report No. 35) have been discontinued, as it has been found that the methods previously used in constructing these indexes do not give reliable results under conditions experienced in recent years. At this stage, no alternative methods have been devised to measure satisfactorily the productivity of the working population.

### § 3. Standard Hours of Work.

- I. General.—In the fixation of weekly wage rates most industrial tribunals prescribe the number of hours constituting a full week's work for the wage rates specified. The hours of work so prescribed form the basis of the compilation of the index numbers on pages 65–68 of this Labour Report. The first year shown is 1914 at which time the 48-hour week was recognized as a standard working week for most industries. The main features of the reduction of hours from 48 to 40 per week are summarized below. In considering such changes it must be remembered that even within individual States the authority to alter conditions of labour is divided between Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and the various legislatures, and that the State legislation does not apply to employees covered by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.
- 2. The 44-hour Week.—No permanent reduction to a 44-hour week was effected until 1925 although temporary reductions had been achieved earlier. In 1920 the New South Wales legislature granted a 44-hour week to most industries, but in the following year this provision was withdrawn. Also in 1920 the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (Higgins J.), after inquiry, granted a 44-hour week to Timber Workers, and, in the following year extended the same privilege to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. In 1921, however, a reconstituted Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration unanimously rejected applications by five trade unions for the shorter standard week and reintroduced the 48-hour week in the case of the two above-mentioned unions then

working 44 hours. During 1924 the Queensland Parliament passed legislation to operate from 1st July, 1925, granting the 44-hour standard week to employees whose conditions of work were regulated by awards and agreements in that State. Similar legislative action in New South Wales led to the re-introduction of the 44-hour week in that State as from 4th January, 1926.

In 1927 after an exhaustive inquiry the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration granted a 44-hour week to the Amalgamated Engineering Union and intimated that this reduction in standard hours of work would be extended to industries operating under conditions similar to those in the engineering industry. Applications for the shorter hours by other unions were, however, treated individually, the nature of the industry, the problem of production, the financial status and the amount of foreign competition being fully investigated. The economic depression delayed the extension of the standard 44-hour week until the subsequent improvement in economic conditions made possible its general extension to employees under Commonwealth awards.

In States other than New South Wales and Queensland no legislation was passed to reduce the standard hours of work so that, for employees not covered by Commonwealth awards, the change had to be effected by decisions of the appropriate industrial tribunals. In these cases the date on which the reduction to 44 hours was implemented depended on the decision of the tribunals in particular industries, employees in some industries receiving the benefit of the reduced hours years ahead of those in others. In these States the change to the shorter week extended over the years from 1926 to 1941.

3. The 40-hour Week.—Soon after the cessation of hostilities in the 1939-45 War applications were made to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the introduction of a 40-hour week, and the hearing by the Court commenced in October, 1945. Before the Court gave its decision the New South Wales Parliament passed legislation granting a 40-hour week, operative from 1st July, 1947, to industries and trades regulated by State awards and agreements and in Queensland similar legislation which provided for the 40-hour week in that State to become operative from 1st January, 1948, was introduced in Parliament.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its judgment on 8th September, 1947, granted the reduction to the 40-hour week from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in January, 1948.\* The Queensland Act was passed, and was proclaimed on 10th October, 1947. On 27th October, 1947, the South Australian Industrial Court after hearing applications by unions approved the incorporation of the 40-hour standard week in awards of that State. The Court of Arbitration of Western Australia on 6th November, 1947, granted the 40-hour week to employees under its jurisdiction from the beginning of the first pay-period to commence in January, 1948.

In Victoria and Tasmania the Wages Boards met and also incorporated the shorter working week in their determinations, so that from the beginning of 1948 practically all employees in Australia whose conditions of labour were regulated by industrial authorities had the advantages of a standard working week of 40 hours or, in certain cases, less.

<sup>\*</sup> See Appendix, page 213 hereof, for decision in the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry.

# § 4. The Basic Wage and Child Endowment in Australia.

I. The Basic Wage.—(i) General.—The "basic" wage is determined in Australia by various industrial tribunals operating under Commonwealth and State industrial legislation. In the industrial legislation of Queensland and Western Australia, provision is made for the tribunals appointed under the Acts to determine the basic rates of wage to be paid to adult unskilled workers. In Tasmania provision for the declaration of a basic rate of wage is not included in the industrial Acts in force. The Wages Board system operates in this State, and each Wages Board determines the rate of wage to be paid to the unskilled worker when the determination for an industry or calling is under review. In Victoria, however, while a similar Wages Board system exists, the Factories and Shops Acts oblige Wages Boards to adopt the same rates as those determined by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for similar industries. In New South Wales and South Australia in general, tribunals are required to adopt the prevailing Commonwealth basic wage.

As the power of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is limited by the Commonwealth Constitution to the settlement, by conciliation and arbitration, of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State, no similar provision respecting the determination of a basic wage is to be found in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. In practice, however, the Court does declare a Commonwealth basic wage and uses the wage so declared as a basis for all awards made by it in the exercise of its jurisdiction, except in the case of awards made for Whyalla and Iron Knob, where the basis of awards has, since 1947, been the South Australian "living" wage plus 5s. That is, upon a new basic wage being declared, the awards made in the settlement of all interstate industrial disputes are re-opened and amended accordingly.

In addition to the "basic" wage, the industrial tribunals also determine what is known as the "secondary" wage—"the extra payment to be made for trained skill or other exceptional qualities necessary for an employee exercising the functions required "\* The term "minimum" wage, as distinct from the "basic" wage, is used to express the lowest rate payable in a particular industry or occupation, and is either equal to, or greater than, the "basic" wage.

- (ii) Acts in Force.—The acts in force at the end of 1952 providing for the determination or variation of a "basic" wage in industry generally are listed below:—
  - (a) Commonwealth—Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-1952.†
     (b) New South Wales—Industrial Arbitration Act 1940-1952.

(c) Victoria—Factories and Shops Acts 1928-1951.

(d) Queensland—Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1932 to 1952.

(e) South Australia—Industrial Code 1920-1951.

(f) Western Australia—Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952.

(g) Tasmania—Wages Boards Act 1920–1951.

2. The Commonwealth Basic Wage.—(i) General.—The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, but it was not until the year 1907 that the first

basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This declaration was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and is popularly known as the "Harvester Judgment" by reason of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works.\* The rate declared in this case was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five".† According to a rough allocation by the Judge, the constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The judgment was delivered on 8th November, 1907, in the matter of the application of H. V. McKay for an Order in terms of Section 2 (d) of the Excise Tariff Act 1906. The Commonwealth Parliament had by this Act imposed certain excise duties on agricultural implements, but provided that the Act should not apply to goods manufactured in Australia "under conditions as to the remuneration of labour which are declared by the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to be fair and reasonable". The President discussed at length the meaning of "fair and reasonable", and stated: "These remarks would not be made if the Legislature had defined the general principles on which I am to determine whether wages are fair and reasonable or the reverse. . . . The provision for fair and reasonable remuneration is obviously designed for the benefit of the employees in the industry; and it must be meant to secure to them something which they cannot get by the ordinary system of individual bargaining with employers. . . . The standard must therefore be something else; and I cannot think of any other standard appropriate than 'the normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilized community'". This may therefore be taken as the original criterion adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the fixation of its "basic" wage.

The "Harvester" basic rate was adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for incorporation in its awards and practically the same rates continued until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the retail price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series) for the 30 more important towns of the Commonwealth, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. These index-numbers had been taken back to 1901, with the year 1911 as base, and disclosed not only considerable percentage increases since 1907, but also large disparities in the relative purchasing power of money in the various towns. The basic rates for towns were thereafter fixed on their respective index-numbers, taking the indexnumber 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to 428. per week, or the base of the index (1,000) as being equivalent to 48s. per

<sup>†</sup> The average number of dependent children per family was apparently regarded by the Court as about three, although statistical information available at the time did not permit of exact figures being ascertained. The 1911 Census disclosed, however, that the average issue of husbands aged 35-39 in the wage and salary earning group (excluding unemployed) was 3.00 children of all ages, and some such figure was probably in the mind of the Court. The only figures available from the 1921 Census for dependent children under 14 years for the wage and salary earning group (including unemployed) were—per male householder, 1.55, and an estimate per adult male of 1.0. The average numbers of dependent children under sixteen years for the wage and salary earning group (including unemployed) at the 1933 Census were as follows—per adult married male, 1.45, and per adult male, 0.91. The following are the estimated numbers of dependent children under fourteen years for the same group—per adult married male, 1.27, and per adult male, 0.80. See however, page 76 for the Court's interpretation in the 1940 Basic Wage Inquiry of the real basis of this wage.

<sup>†</sup> The term "minimum" wage, on the other hand, is used to express the lowest rate of wage payable in a particular industry or occupation, and is either equal to or greater than the "basic" wage.

week. Exceptions were made in the case of many country towns, where certain "loadings" were applied to counterbalance the lower index-numbers due to cheaper rentals.\*

The adequacy or otherwise of the "Harvester" standard was the subject of much discussion during the period of its operation, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. The abnormal conditions during and for some time after the 1914-18 War hindered such a review, which was regarded as less urgent by reason of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being adjusted to changes in retail prices. A Royal Commission, however, was appointed in 1919 to assess a basic wage, but although its recommendations were not carried out (owing mainly to the considerable advance the amounts recommended represented over current rates and the grave doubts expressed as to the ability of industry to pay such rates), the two Reports of the Commission of 1920 and 1921 comprise a most valuable contribution on the subject of the basic wage in Australia, and a résumé of its findings is given on page 102.

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s." was added as a general "loading" to the weekly wage for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. In the same year the system was instituted of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to accord with variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the "A" series retail price index-numbers, and of basing the adjustments on the index-number for the quarter in place of that for the previous calendar year or the year ended the preceding quarter.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that any alteration of the "basic" wage or the principles on which it is computed, or any variation or interpretation of any award where the variation or interpretation would result in any such alteration, shall have no force or effect unless it is considered by a Court constituted by the Chief Judge and not less than two other Judges, and must be approved by a majority of the members of the Court. By a judgment of the High Court on 21st April, 1933, the "basic" wage is taken to mean for the foregoing purpose, not only the "Harvester" wage, but any "loadings" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer, the wage payable for skilled labour being assessed on the basis of that primary wage. A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill."

No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of the depression, which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court by employers for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that afforded by the automatic adjustments to falling retail prices. An account of the proceedings which resulted in the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931, was given in Labour Report No. 23, page 74. Reference was also made to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to remove this special reduction.

(ii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934.—The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued as the theoretical basis of the wage of the Commonwealth Court until 30th April, 1934, when it was superseded by a

‡ 30 C.A.R., p. 1; 31 C.A.R., p. 305.

<sup>\*</sup> As these indexes covered only about 60 per cent. of household expenditure, a low index due to low rentals would wrongly presume low costs in the remaining uninvestigated 40 per cent. of household expenditure and etce reria.

† Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the Gas Workers' Case (16 C.A.R., p. 32).

judgment delivered on 17th April, 1934, operative from 1st May, 1934,\* full particulars of which appear in earlier issues of the Labour Report (see No. 26, page 76). The basic wage declared on this occasion (subsequently referred to as the "Needs Basic Wage, 1934") was declared on the basis of the relative "C" series retail price indexes for the various cities for the December quarter, 1933, and ranged from 61s. for Brisbane to 67s. for Sydney and Hobart, the average wage for the six capital cities being 65s. A comparison for the capital cities of the basic rates granted by the judgment and those ruling under previous practices of the Court was given in Labour Report No. 40, page 76.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the basis of the periodical adjustments to retail price variations was transferred from the "A" and the "D" series to the "C" series of index-numbers.† The base of the table (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. per week. This gave the above rates for the capital cities, on the basis of their respective index-numbers. In effect the new rate for the six capital cities was the same as that previously paid under the "A" series, without the "Powers' 3s.", and without the 10 per cent. reduction. Certain towns gained and others lost in comparison with rates under the "A" series, owing to the different relationship of towns under the "A" and the "C" series.

- (iii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937.—In May, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined unions for an increase in the basic wage. The unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" series index be increased from 81s. to 93s., which on current indexnumbers would have represented an average increase of about 10s. per week. The hearing extended from 10th May to 4th June, 1937, and the Court delivered judgment on 23rd June.‡ The chief features of the judgment were:
- (a) Various amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" on the rates payable under the 1934 judgment. The wage assessed on the 1934 basis was designated in the new judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wage and it has since been generally known by that name. The "loadings", referred to as "Prosperity" loadings, and resultant "total basic wages" for the six capital cities were as follows:—

	City.		" Nee Basic \		" Prosp Load		Tot Basic \	
Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart		 	8. 72 69 68 68 70	d. o o o o (a) o (b)	6 6 4 4	d. 0 0 0 0 0	8. 78 75 74 72 74	d
Six Ca	pitals	 	70	0	5	0	75	0

<sup>(</sup>a) An additional is, was actually being paid under the "2s, minimum adjustment" provision. (b) is, less was being paid under the "2s, minimum adjustment" provision.

The above were not to apply to railway employees, to whom the Court granted "loadings" of 5s. in New South Wales and Victoria, and 3s. in South Australia and Tasmania. Workers in the provincial towns were to receive

<sup>\* 33</sup> C.A.R., p. 144. † For explanation of the "A", "C" and "D" series see pages 38 and 39 of this Report. † 37 C.A.R., p. 583.

"loadings"—6s. in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland; and 4s. in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. Wages based on "combination" index-numbers covering four, five or six capital cities, or the 30 towns, would receive a "loading" of 5s. per week. The maritime workers were granted a "loading" of 21s. 6d. per month, and the pastoral workers received increases proportionate to the increase of the flat basic rate, from 68s. to 77s. in respect of the basis of piece-work rates, and of 3s. per week for station hands.

(b) The former proviso that no adjustment of wages should take place unless the amount of variation reached at least 2s. was rescinded in favour

of minimum variations of is. per week.

(c) The general policy laid down in the previous judgment in regard to rates for country towns was retained, with the exception that the rates for Geelong and Warrnambool were made the same as those for Melbourne.

(d) The basis of the adjustment of wages in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index-numbers was transferred from the "C" series to a special "Court" series based upon the "C" series, for an explanation of which see page 39.

(e) Female and junior rates were left for adjustment by individual

judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the judgment were reprinted in earlier issues of the

Labour Report (see No. 28, page 77).

(iv) "Lag" in Adjustments.—The Commonwealth Court on 19th December, 1939, heard an application by the unions that the date of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the variations in the "Court" series of index-numbers be brought nearer to the period upon which the variation was based. In a judgment delivered on the same day, the Court directed that such adjustments be made one month earlier. The effect, therefore, was to make future adjustments operative from the beginning of the first pay-period to commence in a February, a May, an

August or a November.

(v) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940.—On 5th August, 1940, the Full Court commenced the hearing of an application by the combined unions for an increase in the existing basic wage by raising the value of 1,000 (the base of the "C" series index upon which the "Court" series are based) from 81s. to 100s. per week, and the abolition of the existing "Prosperity" loadings, which would be regarded as incorporated in the new rate mentioned. Judgment was delivered on 7th February, 1941, wherein the Court unanimously refused to grant any increase, and decided that the application should not be dismissed but stood over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941. The application was refused mainly owing to the uncertainty of the economic outlook under existing war conditions.\*

In regard to the popular idea that the basic wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was identified with a specific family unit, the Chief Judge made the following statements to clarify the position: "The Court has always conceded that the 'needs' of an average family should be kept in mind in fixing a basic wage. But it has never as the result of its own inquiry specifically declared what is an average family or what is the cost of a regimen of food, clothing, shelter and miscellaneous items necessary to maintain it in frugal comfort, or that a basic wage should give effect to any such finding. In the end economic possibilities have always been the determining factor . . . What should be sought is the independent ascertainment and prescription of the highest basic wage that can be sustained

by the total of industry in all its primary, secondary and ancillary forms. That, no doubt, is the object, but the adoption of something like the real average family as the unit to be provided for is not without its use in the attainment of that object. There is no clear means of measuring the general wage-paying capacity of the total industry of a country. All that can be done is to approximate, and one of the methods of approximation is to find out the actual wage upon which well-situated labourers are at the time maintaining the average family unit. We may be pardoned for saying that Mr. Justice Higgins very wisely used this criterion in the Harvester case.\* Moreover, if the average-sized families of such well-situated labourers have become accustomed to enjoy, and do actually enjoy, a certain standard of living in our community, it may reasonably be assumed that such a standard for all labourers is probably not beyond the capacity of industry in general to provide. Therefore, in determining the amount of a living or basic wage there is sound economic warranty for the ascertainment of the real average family unit and of the cost of providing something like the standard which such families of well-employed labourers have already reached. But obviously, if the real average family unit is departed from, or a standard is sought for the likely maintenance of which experience gives no reason to hope, then an unrealizable wage-level may be ordained. . . . It may be that in the light of past experience the Court should conduct a specific inquiry as to the cost of living of an average family, but under war conditions such an inquiry would be futile. More than ever before wage fixation is controlled by the economic outlook."

The Chief Judge further stated, "I was impressed with new evidence and argument as to the inadequacy of the earnings of the lower grade wage-earners with families. On our accepted standards of living, looking at it from the needs point of view only, I regard the present basic wage as adequate for a family unit of three, but think it offers only a meagre existence for a family unit of four. When the unit gets beyond four hardship is often experienced." He suggested that the more logical system would be to grade the basic wage according to family responsibilities and that, notwithstanding the increase in aggregate wages, the benefits resulting from a reapportionment of national income to increase the wages of those with more than one dependent child would more than offset the inflationary tendency of provision for a comprehensive scheme of child endowment, and that if a scheme of this nature were established, as recently announced by the Commonwealth Government; future fixations of the basic wage would be greatly simplified.

(vi) "Interim" Basic Wage Inquiry, 1946.—The Court, on 25th November, 1946, commenced the hearing of this case as the result of (a) is application made on 30th October, 1946 (during the course of the Standara Hours Case) by the Attorney-General for the Commonwealth for the restoration to the Full Court List of certain adjourned 1940 basic wage applications (see (v) above); (b) a number of fresh cases which had come to the Court since 1941 and (c) an application by the Australasian Council of Trade Unions on behalf of the unions for an "interim" basic wage declaration.

Judgment was delivered on 13th December, 1946 whereby an increase of 7s. per week was granted in the "needs" portion of the basic wage then current and based on the weighted average "Court" index-number for

<sup>\*</sup> See page 73 for details.
† Legislation covering a scheme which became operative on 1st July, 1941, was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament on 3rd April, 1941—see page 104 for details.

the Six Capital Cities (as a whole) for the September quarter, 1946. This had the effect of raising the base (1923–27) index-number of the "Court" Series Index from 81.0 to 87.0, the corresponding "needs" basic wage from 81s. to 87s. per week, and the current rate for the Six Capital Cities from 93s. to 100s. per week. All "loadings" on the basic wage were retained at their existing amounts until otherwise ordered by the Court. The immediate monetary effect was to increase by 7s. per week the basic wage in each of the capital cities (with the exception of Hobart, where the increase was 6s.), and in most of the other towns or combinations of towns—the position of the index-number for a town in the new Automatic Adjustment Scale (on the new base rate of 87s.) determining whether the increase was 7s. or 6s.

The new "Court" index-numbers were obtained by multiplying the "C" series retail price index-numbers (1923–27 Base = 1,000) by the factor 0.087, and taking the result to the first decimal place. They were designated "Court Index (Second Series)", to distinguish them from the "Court Index (First Series)", similarly derived by using the factor 0.081 [see page 39, (vii)]. For the purpose of obtaining a continuous "price-index", however, the "First Series" may be converted to the "Second Series" by multiplying the indexes of the former by 1.0741, and the "Second Series" to the "First Series" by multiplying the latter indexes by 0.931.

The incorporation of this increase in the "Court" series had the advantage of not vitiating in any way the existing adjustment scales in awards, etc., since the higher value allotted by the Court to the "C" series indexes automatically carried the "Court" index-numbers for all towns, etc., into the appropriate higher-value index-number divisions of the scales, whether the rates were prescribed on a yearly, half-yearly, monthly, weekly, hourly or other basis.

The foregoing increases were in respect of adult males but, as regards females and juveniles, it was provided that the relative rates for males and females as provided in existing awards, etc., of the Court should continue to apply. It was also provided that in the case of females whose remuneration was governed by any decision of the Women's Employment Board (see page 82 et seq.) or by the National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations no alteration of stated rates would ensue by any order pursuant to this judgment. However, those rates expressed as a stipulated percentage of the adult male rate were affected.

The new rates were expressed to become operative for the bulk of those affected as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month of December, 1946, but as to certain employees, for instance, casual workers such as waterside workers and maritime employees, the order was to operate from the 1st day of December, 1946. It was also stated in the judgment that any party to an award not then before the Court was at liberty to file an application for variation of that award and such application would be immediately placed before the Court for determination.

(vii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949–50.—This case really finalized the case begun in 1940 and continued in 1946 (see above). In 1946 the Chief Judge ruled that the claim for an increase in the basic wage should be heard concurrently with the "40-Hour Week" claims then before the Court. The unions, however, objected to this course being followed, and, on appeal to

the High Court, that Court in March, 1947, gave a decision which obliged the Arbitration Court to proceed with the "Hours" case to its conclusion without the interpolation of the contemporaneous hearing of the Basic Wage case.\*

The general hearing of the unions' claims was commenced on 17th May, 1949. Evidence was completed on 22nd August, 1950, and the three Judges (Kelly C.J., Foster and Dunphy JJ.) delivered separate judgments on 12th October, 1950. In those judgments, which were in the nature of general declarations, a majority of the Court (Foster and Dunphy JJ.) was of the opinion that the basic wage for adult males should be increased by £1 per week, and that for adult females should be 75 per cent. of the adult male rate. Kelly C.J., dissenting, considered that no increase in either the male or female wage was justified.

On 24th October, 1950, and 23rd November, 1950, the Court made further declarations regarding the "Prosperity" loading of 1937 (see page 75) which was being paid at rates between 3s. and 6s. per week according to localities, etc., and the future basis of quarterly adjustments. The "Prosperity" loading was standardized at a uniform rate of 5s. per week for all towns and was declared to be an adjustable part of the basic wage. The Court also declared that the "War" loadings were not part of the basic wage.

With regard to other "loadings" the Court on 17th November, 1950, proceeded to examine the individual awards in the claims before it, for the purpose of determining to what extent such "loadings" formed part of the basic wage. It should be noted that any "loading" declared to be part of the basic wage ceased to be paid as a separate entity, but apart from the special case of the Australian Capital Territory there were very few "loadings" which fell within this category.

The first payment of the new rates was expressed to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, by way of a flat-rate addition of £1 5s. in all cases to the "needs" rate (2nd Series) on the indexes of the September quarter, 1950. This £1 5s. comprised the £1 addition announced on 12th October, 1950, and the standardized "Prosperity" loading of 5s.

The basic wage rate for the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) arrived at by the Court after applying the foregoing declarations was £8 2s., comprising £6 17s. "needs" (2nd Series) plus 5s. uniform "Prosperity" loading plus the £1 addition. For the purpose of determining the corresponding rates to be paid in respect of individual cities and towns, and combinations thereof, and their future automatic adjustment, this new rate of £8 2s. was equated to the "C" series retail price index-number 1572 for the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) for September quarter, 1950. From this was derived a new "Court" Series Index—in future to be known as the "Court" Index (Third Series)—for automatic variation of the new basic wage in accordance with future variations in retail prices, with 103.0 equated to 1,000 in the "C" Series Index. The first automatic quarterly adjustment of the new basic wage on this basis became operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1951, on the basis of the index-numbers for the December quarter, 1950. The new adjustment scale appears on page 41 of this Report.

<sup>\*</sup> Printing Industry Employees Union of Australia v. Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, 73 C.L.R., p. 259.
† The use of this adjustment scale was discortinued on 12th September, 1953. See Appendix page 213 hereof.

The basic wage rates operative in November, 1950, are shown below in comparison with those operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950:—

Date of Operation.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.	
November, 1950 December, 1950	s. d. 146 o 165 o	s. d. 143 o 162 o	s. d.	s. d. 137 0 158 0	s. d. 139 0 160 0	s. d. 139 o 160 o	s. d. 142 o 162 o	

(viii) Rates Operative, Principal Towns.—The "basic" wage rates of the Commonwealth Court for adult males and females, operative in the principal towns of Australia as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, are shown in the following table:—

#### Commonwealth Basic Wage: Weekly Rates, August, 1953.(a)

City or Town.		R	ate o	f Wage		Cites on The	Rate of Wage.					
		Mal	es.	Females.		City or Town.	Mal	es.	Females.			
New South Wales— Sydney Newcastle (b) Port Kembla-Wellongong (b)	 ol-	8. 243 243	d. o o	8. 182 182	<i>d</i> .	South Australia— Adelaide	8. 231 236	<i>d</i> . o	8. 173	0		
Broken Hill		247 242	0	185 181	6	Western Australia— Perth	230	0	172	6		
Victoria— Melbourne Geelong (d)		235 235	0	176	0	Kalgoorlie Geraldton Five Towns (c)	243 249 237	0	182 186 177	6		
Yallourn (d)		235 235 241 235	0 6 0	176 176 181 176	0 0 0	Tasmania— Hobart Launceston Queenstown Five Towns (c)	242 238 233 240	0 0 0	181 178 174 180	6 6 0		
TO (1)		218 219	0	163 164	6	Thirty Towns $(c)$ Six Capital Cities $(c)$	236 236	0	177	0		

<sup>(</sup>a) Operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953. (b) Based on Sydney. (c) Weighted average. (d) Based on Melbourne.

With the exception of those mentioned above, the rate for provincial towns is 3s. less than that for their capital city.

The rate for adult females is 75 per cent. of the male rate.

A table of Basic Wage Rates from 1923 to 1953 will be found in Section X. of the Appendix.

3. Basic Wage Rates for Females.—(i) General.—In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, wherein the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration laid down the basis of its "needs" basic wage for adult males, the Court made the following statement in regard to the female rate:—

"The Court does not think it necessary or desirable, at any rate at the present time, to declare any wage as a basic wage for female employees. Generally speaking they carry no family responsibilities. The minimum wage should, of course, never be too low for the reasonable needs of the employee, but those needs may vary in different industries. In the variations now to be made the proportion in each award of the minimum wage for females to that of males will be preserved."

The previous practice of the Court was therefore continued whereby each judge granted such proportion of the male rate as he deemed suited to the nature of the industry and the general circumstances of the case. Generally speaking, this proportion was in the vicinity of 54 per cent. of the male rate, although in some cases the proportion was about 56 per cent.

Until 1942 this continued to be substantially the practice of all Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and in the main its continuance was then made mandatory by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations which "pegged" as at 10th February, 1942, all rates of remuneration previously prevailing in any employment. The only exceptions allowed were variations to rectify anomalies, variations resultant from hearings pending prior to 10th February, 1942, and "cost of living" variations.

In March, 1942, however, special action was taken to constitute a Women's Employment Board in conjunction with measures to encourage women to undertake, in war-time, work which would normally have been performed by men. This Board was given special jurisdiction to determine terms and conditions of such employment. The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and State Industrial Tribunals continued to determine rates of pay, etc., of women engaged in what may broadly be described as "women's work" in the pre-war sense, while the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was made to cover women engaged during the war in work formerly performed by men or in new work which immediately prior to the outbreak of the war was not performed in Australia by any person.

In July, 1944, National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations authorized the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to make comprehensive investigations (a) as to whether minimum rates of wage payable to females in industries considered by the Government to be necessary for war purposes were unreasonably low in comparison with minimum rates payable to females in other essential industries, (b) if so, as to whether it was in the national interest, and fair and just, to increase such rates, and (c) as to the amount of such increases. Determinations could be made for any period specified by the Court but not extending beyond six months after the end of the war. In making such determinations the Court was not bound by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations, although such regulations applied to the new rates after determination. The objective of the Female Minimum Rates Regulations was to remove unreasonable disparities which were creating justified discontent and impeding the manpower authority in redistributing female labour in vital industries. This review commenced in the Court on 23rd February, 1945, and ended on 23rd March, judgment being reserved.

Judgment was delivered by the Full Court on 4th May, 1945,\* to the effect that, in regard to (a) above, the majority of the Full Court (Piper C.J., O'Mara and Kelly JJ.) found itself unable to declare that the rates in the "referred" industries were unreasonably low compared with those in the three industries submitted by the Crown and the Union representatives as the standard rates for comparison, namely, those of the Clothing, Rubber and Metal industries, and that there was consequently no necessity to answer question (b). In a minority judgment, Drake-Brockman and Foster JJ., answered (a) and (b) in the affirmative.

Following this negative result, the Government, by National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations (S.R. 1945, No. 139) dated 13th August, 1945, provided in respect of "vital" industries specified by the Minister by notice published in the Gazette that the remuneration of females employed therein should not be less than 75 per cent. of the corresponding minimum male rate. The validity of this Regulation was challenged in the High Court by Australian Textiles Pty. Ltd., but in a judgment dated 3rd December, 1945, the Court (Starke J. dissenting) held that the Regulations were a valid exercise of the powers under the National Security Act 1939–1943. The rates under this Regulation commenced to operate from 31st August, 1945.

As from 12th October, 1944, the Women's Employment Board was abolished and the Chairman of the Board (A. W. Foster) was made a judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The function of the Board under the Women's Employment Act then devolved upon the Court as constituted by a judge designated by the Chief Judge. (See S.R. 1944, No. 149.)

The following sub-sections give a brief account of the functions allotted to and of the principles followed by the Women's Employment Board, and a summary of an important judgment delivered by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1943 stating the principles followed by the Court in fixing the basic rates payable to female workers and the difference between the rates payable to the women engaged in "women's work" and those payable to the special group of women engaged in "men's work" in war-time under the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board. The judgment also dealt with the question of "anomalies" as between the rates payable to the two classes of women workers.

(ii) Women's Employment Board.—The functions of the Women's Employment Board were specified by the Women's Employment Act 1942.‡ The purpose of the Act as expressed in the title was "to encourage and regulate the employment of women for the purpose of aiding the prosecution of the present war". The jurisdiction of the Board was limited to females employed (after 2nd March, 1942) on work usually performed by males or which, immediately prior to the outbreak of the war, was not performed in Australia by any person.

The functions of the Board briefly were to decide what work and what female workers came within its jurisdiction (as defined) and the terms and conditions upon which women might be so employed including hours and special conditions as to safety, welfare and health. The Board was required to fix rates of payment for such women with regard to their efficiency and

<sup>\*</sup> C.A.R. 54, p. 613. † Twelve vitalindustries were "referred" by the Government for consideration.

† The Board was originally created under regulations under the National Security Act 1939-1940, dated 25th March, 1942 (Statutory Rules 1942, No. 146), but owing to the disallowance of such regulations by the Senate on 23rd September, 1942, the Board operated under the Women's Employment Act, No. 55 of 1942, as from 6th October, 1942, which validated all previous decisions, etc., of the first Board /gazetted on 11th June, 1942). The second Board was created on 10th November, 1942.

productivity in relation to that of males engaged in such work and the Regulations provided that payment to females (engaged on "men's work") should be not less than 60 per cent. nor more than 100 per cent. of the male rate.

The Board ceased to function in 1944 but the Women's Employment Regulations continued to operate until 1949, when, by a judgment of the High Court, such continuation was declared invalid. A summary of the activities of the Board during its period of operation was given in previous issues of the Labour Report (see No. 36, page 84).

(iii) Judgments by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration—On 24th March, 1943, a case involving determination of general principles as to rates of wage of female employees not within the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was remitted to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by the Minister for Labour and National Service under Regulation 9 of the National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations, particularly as affecting female workers at Government small arms ammunition factories. The rates in these cases were considered by their trade union to be anomalous compared with those awarded by the Women's Employment Board to certain other women employed in those factories. The Court in its judgment dated 17th June, 1943,\* rejected the contentions of the union (Arms Explosives and Munition Workers Federation of Australia) and enunciated in full the principles followed by the Court in determining female rates of wage within its jurisdiction.

In order to place the matter in perspective in its relation to the basic wage for males, the Court traced the history of the principles on which the basic wage for males was determined from its original declaration by Mr. Justice Higgins in his "Harvester" judgment of 1907 (see pp. 73-74 of this Report) and continued—

"Although since 1930, when the 'economic or productivity factor' emerged as the 'dominant factor' in the problem of assessment [of the basic wage of adult male employees], the adequacy of the wage to meet the requirements of any 'specified family unit' has been only a subsidiary consideration, subsidiary that is to say to the question of the capacity of the national production to sustain a particular wage level, it is plain that the Court has not held that its basic wage has been fixed at too low a figure to meet the normal and reasonable needs of a family of husband, wife and at least one child. Nor has its adequacy to that extent been questioned. In this sense it can still be regarded as a family wage, inasmuch as it has been accepted as sufficient at all events to provide 'frugal comfort' for a man, his wife and at least one dependent child. For present purposes it is enough to say that, until a proper investigation demonstrates the contrary to be the case, we cannot but hold that the amount provided is more than sufficient to meet the normal and reasonable requirements of an unmarried worker with no dependants to support out of his earnings. And the same may be said of the living or basic wages determined by authorities functioning under State legislation as appropriate for male employees within their jurisdiction. The method of assessment of wage rates for adult male workers adopted and followed by industrial authorities throughout Australia has been to fix a basic wage portion adequate for the estimated needs of some family group and to add to that some additional payment in recognition of the skill or experience possessed by the worker or the special conditions met with in his

particular occupation. The basic wage portion has had no reference to work value; it has been assessed in accordance with needs and it has never been either held or suggested to be inadequate to meet the normal and reasonable needs not only of the worker himself but also of his wife and at least one dependent child."

The Court in its judgment then set out decisions arrived at by various Commonwealth and State Courts since 1912 when the Commonwealth Court first dealt directly with the problem of women's wages. Mr. Justice Higgins dealt with the case, and stated "I fixed the minimum in 1907 of 7s. per day by finding the sum which would meet the normal needs of an average employee, one of his normal needs being the need for domestic life. If he has a wife and children, he is under an obligation—even a legal obligation—to maintain them. How is such a minimum applicable to the case of a woman . . . ? She is not, unless perhaps in very exceptional circumstances, under any such obligation. The minimum cannot be based on exceptional cases."

In respect of the "minimum rate" enjoined by the Commonwealth Arbitration Act, he held that "Nothing is clearer than that the 'minimum rate' referred to in Section 40 means the minimum rate for a class of workers, those who do work of a certain character. If blacksmiths are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that blacksmiths are usually men. If fruit-pickers are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that, up to the present at least, most of the pickers are men (although women have been usually paid less), and that men and women are fairly in competition as to that class of work. If milliners are the class of workers, the minimum rate must, I think, be such as recognizes that all or nearly all milliners are women, and that men are not usually in competition with them."\*

In concluding its review the Court stated "the fixation of the basic wage for women at amounts below 60 per cent. of that fixed for men has been general in the awards and determinations of this Court and other industrial authorities of Australia."

The Court stated its conclusions and laid down general principles in the following words:—

"It is beyond question that the general rule adopted and followed by the Australian industrial authorities in the assessment of wages for adult women workers, engaged upon work suitable for women in which they cannot fairly be said to be in competition with men for employment, has been and still is to fix a foundational amount, calculated with reference to the needs of a single woman who has to pay for her board and lodging, has to maintain herself out of her earnings, but has no dependants to support; and to add to this foundational or basic amount such marginal amounts as may be appropriate in recognition of the particular skill or experience of the particular workers in question or as compensation for the particular conditions which they encounter in their occupations . . .

"Just as the wages for male workers are assessed by adopting first a foundational wage—the basic wage—and adding to it marginal amounts fixed according to the relative skill and experience of particular workers or groups of workers, or to the special conditions they encounter, so too are women's wages, for work suitable to them in which they will not be disadvantaged by male competition, fixed by adding to a foundational or basic amount analogous margins. But in each case the foundational wage is in principle and justice different. The man's basic wage is more than sufficient for his personal needs; it purports to provide him with enough to support some family. The woman's, on the other hand, purports to be enough for her to maintain herself only. No allowance is made for the support of any dependants. The man's wage has been measured by this Court with reference to the dominating factor of the productive capacity of industry to sustain it and with due regard consequently to what its application in industry will mean, to the marginal structure which rises above it, and to the consequent wages which will in accordance with established rules and practice be paid to women and to minors.

"In the course of the hearing the Chief Judge drew attention to the necessity which would occur, if women's rates were to be assessed on the basis that relative efficiency and productivity (as between men and women) were to constitute the dominant factor, for a review of the principles in accordance with which the basic wage has been determined. That this necessity would arise must be apparent. For the basic wage for adult males has been fixed at as high an amount as the Court has thought practicable in all the circumstances of the case, including the circumstance of the existing proportionate levels of wages for women and minors. The share of men workers in the fruits of production will need to be reduced if women are to participate therein on an equal footing, or on a better footing generally than that to which they have hitherto been held to be entitled.

"It is desirable that we should indicate as clearly as possible the effect of the conclusions to which the review of the principles of wage assessment we have made has led us. It is that, so long as the foundational or basic wage for women is assessed according to a standard different from that which is the basis of the foundational or basic wage—a family wage—for men, the Court will not, in the exercise of its function of adjudicating between opposing interests, raise the general level of women's minimum wages in occupations suitable for women, and in which they do not encounter considerable competition from men, according to a comparison of their efficiency and productivity with the efficiency and productivity of men doing substantially similar work. To do so would at once depress the relative standard of living of the family as a group, and of its individual members, as compared with that of the typical single woman wage-earner."\*

In December, 1943,† Drake-Brockman J. of this Court, in dealing with women employees in the Clothing (Dressmaking and Tailoring Sections) and Rubber industries, awarded for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter as a "flat rate" for the industry 75 per cent. of the "needs" basic wage, plus the "prosperity" and "industry" loadings ordinarily applicable. The reason for this action was (in the words of the judgment) as follows: "it was also common ground (between all the parties) that wastage of the employees in the industry during the last three years had been exceptionally heavy and that it was essential that some means should be found to attract women to the industry and thereafter to retain them for some reasonable period of time after they had been trained."

In July, 1944, the National Security (Female Minimum Wage) Regulations extended the discretion of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing female minimum wage rates in "vital" industries in

war-time as briefly described on page 81.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act No. 10 of 1947 (see Labour Report No. 37, page 50) provided amongst other things that "a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award altering  $\dots$  . . . . (d) the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry." As the result of doubts which arose as to the powers of the Commissioners to "fix" a basic wage, the matter came before the Full Court of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for clarification at the instance of several trade unions. Judgment was delivered on 27th July, 1948, and it was held that Conciliation Commissioners had jurisdiction to fix the female rates in question under the provisions of the Act, but it was also held that the provision referred only to the basic element in any prescribed female rates. Where, however, such a prescribed rate did not specifically fix or disclose the basic wage element, the appropriate Conciliation Commissioner had to fix the rate, and when such rate had been fixed its alteration became a matter for the Court. In view of the fact that there were fifteen Commissioners whose views might differ as to the element of the rates of pay of adult females which could be ascribed to an adult female basic wage analogous to the basic wage for adult males, the Government in December, 1948, passed an Act (No. 77 of 1948) further amending the above-mentioned Act to authorize the Court—and the Court alone—to fix the basic rate by providing that "a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award . . . . (d) determining or altering the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry."

A further amending Act, No. 2 of 1949, empowered the Court to determine or alter a "basic wage for adult females" which was defined as "that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable for an adult female, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or

the industry in which, she is employed."

At the end of the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 78) the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by a majority decision fixed a new basic weekly wage for adult females at 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.\*

For the new rates payable to adult females employed under State awards

see pages 95-102.

4. Australian Territories.—(i) Australian Capital Territory.—Prior to 1922 the lowest rate payable to an unskilled labourer was not defined as a basic wage, as all wages were paid under the authority of the Federal Capital Commission as a lump sum for the particular occupation in which the worker was employed. But in 1922 an Industrial Board commenced to operate under a local Ordinance (see page 54). A summary of the decisions made by the Industrial Board during its period of operation was given in previous issues of the Labour Report (see No. 40, page 89).

By an amending Ordinance, No. 4 of 1949, the Industrial Board was abolished and its functions were transferred to authorities established under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Industrial matters are now determined by either the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration or the Conciliation Commissioner assigned to the Australian

<sup>\*</sup> This decision was not varied at the 1952-53 Inquiry. See Appendix, page 213 hereof.

Capital Territory. It was provided, however, that all existing orders and agreements should continue to operate subject to later orders, awards, and determinations made by the Court or Commissioner.

In reviewing the Australian Capital Territory awards following its decision of 12th October, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration fixed the Canberra Basic Wage at £8 5s. per week for adult males, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950. This amount was the "needs" basic wage as expressed by the Court's Second Series index-number for Canberra for the September quarter, 1950 with the prescribed addition of £1 5s. The new rate represented an increase of 13s. 6d. a week over that previously payable.

The rate payable in the Territory (in respect only of workers outside the Commonwealth Public Service) was 238s. per week, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953.\*

(ii) Northern Territory.—The determination of the basic wage for this Territory comes within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

There are, in fact, two basic wages operating—(a) in respect of areas north of the 20th parallel of South Latitude, and generally referred to as the "Darwin" rate, and (b) in respect of areas south of that parallel. These are calculated on different bases as set out in the following paragraphs.

(a) The Darwin Basic Wage.—This wage was first determined by the Court in 1915† when the Deputy President (Powers J.) awarded a rate of £3 17s. per week, or 1s. 9d. per hour, for an unskilled labourer, which included an allowance of 4s. for lost time.

The basic wage level again came under consideration when the wage for carpenters and joiners was reviewed by Mr. Justice Powers in 1916–17.‡ The Judge referred to an agreement dated 2nd June, 1916, between the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners and the Northern Agency (formerly Vestey Brothers) which provided for rates based on a budget of the estimated living requirements of a family consisting of a man, wife and two dependent children, amounting to £3 11s. 1d. per week. As the amount awarded (2s. 4d. per hour) for carpenters, however, was over £5 per week, the Judge felt that a fair living wage was fully assured. His Honor stated that he did not find anything to cause him to alter the judgment given on 15th March, 1915, when he prescribed a wage of 1s. 9d. per hour.

Up till 1924 the practice of the Court had been to fix the basic wage in accordance with the principles laid down in 1916, and in connexion with an application in 1924 concerning the rate for employees of the Commonwealth Railways, when the wage for these workers stood at £5 4s. 6d., the Judge (Powers J.) refused to alter the wage. He stated that he had in mind the amount of £4 12s., to which he would have felt justified in adding £1 to compensate for the many disadvantages caused by isolation, especially the loss of or extra expense of the proper education of the children. He considered, therefore, that the wage of £5 4s. 6d. then payable contained a special allowance on such account, and that the question of such special allowances was a matter for employers and employees to settle between themselves.§

In 1927|| Judge Beeby also referred to the regimen of 1916, and implied that since then it had formed the foundation of the basic wages fixed by the

<sup>\*</sup> See Appendix, page 213 hereof, for decision in the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry. † 9 C.A.R., p. 1. ‡ 11 C.A.R., p. 51. \$ 20 C.A.R., p. 731. \$ 25 C.A.R., p. 897.

Court, and that the sufficiency of the regimen, except as to rent and one or two minor omissions, had never been questioned. On this occasion he fixed the basic wage at £5 Ios. per week, or 2s. 6d. per hour, including 2os. per week district allowance which was suggested by Mr. Justice Powers in his 1924 award as being a reasonable amount.

As there was no adjustment clause in operation in Territory awards, the basic wage of £5 Ios. remained in operation until 1934, excepting that it was reduced by the Financial Emergency Act to £4 Ios. 3d. per week.

In 1934\* the Full Court for the first time considered the basic wage. The Court brought the regimen of the 1916 agreement up to date, altered the rent figure from 45s. to 65s. per month, and arrived at the amount of £4 10s. 9d. per week. This was £1 4s. 9d. above the Court's "needs" basic wage recently declared for the six capital cities, the Court regarding the difference as representing the extra amount required to purchase the same standard of living as in the six capital cities, with nothing by way of compensation allowance. Automatic adjustment provisions first introduced into the awards by this judgment were effected by inserting an appropriate Adjustment Scale based on the equation of £4 10s. 9d. to the Food and Groceries retail price index-number (Special) 1,184 for Darwin for the month of August, 1934.

In 1938† the Court granted a "loading" of 3s. per week on the wage because the Commonwealth Government had extended to the Territory its general civil service increase of £8 per annum.

In 1939‡ the adjustment clause was suspended pending further inquiry into the basic wage, and an amount of 16s. 3d. was added as an additional "loading", making the total basic wage at that period £5 10s. per week.

In 1941§ the Full Court again reviewed the basic wage and, after a full investigation of its past history, awarded £5 12s. 9d., made up of (a) £4 10s. 9d. awarded in 1934; (b) 4s. in respect of accrued adjustments since 1939; (c) 5s. additional allowance for rent; and (d) two constant (unadjustable) "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. per week. The Court also restored the adjustment clause by equating £4 15s. 9d. of the foregoing amounts (£4 10s. 9d. plus 5s. rent) to the base index 1,184 of the former adjustment scale (based solely on the Food and Groceries price index-number). This, however, never became effective owing to its being superseded early in 1942 by the Blakeley Orders referred to below. The two "loadings" were not made adjustable. All other "loadings" mentioned above were dropped.

The basis of adjustment was altered by A. Blakeley, C.C., by Orders dated 29th January, 1942,|| owing to the urgent necessity to provide, over the period of the war, for adjustments in respect of rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure which, with the exception of rent, had already increased considerably in price throughout Australia, and threatened to increase further as the war continued. Adjustment by means only of the Food and Groceries Index was therefore no longer doing justice to the workers of the Territory, since the workers elsewhere in Australia were enjoying the benefit derived from the adjustment of their wages by means of the more comprehensive "C" series retail price index.

As there was no "C" series retail price index for the Territory, nor was it possible to compile one on the basis of prices in Darwin, the only alternative was to create a "composite" index with the help of prices for these additional items from some other town of somewhat similar living conditions. The town selected as being most suitable for this purpose was Townsville, and the "composite" index was therefore computed on the basis of food and groceries prices in Darwin, combined with Townsville prices for rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure mentioned above, the index being designated "The Darwin Special 'All Items' Index".

Taking the December quarter, 1940, as a suitable period upon which adjustments should be based, for which quarter the Special "All Items" indexnumber was 1,036, the Court's basic wage of £4 19s. 9d. (including 4s. for accrued adjustments) declared in its judgment of 7th April, 1941,\* was related (not "equated") to the Index-number Division (1031-1043) containing index-number 1,036 of the "C" series adjustment scale formerly used by the Court in its awards (Base: 1923-27 = 1,000 = 81s.), thus giving workers in the Territory the same basis of adjustment as that operating in respect of all workers throughout Australia coming within the jurisdiction of the Court. It should be noted in this connexion that the Court's "needs" equivalent of index-number 1,036 was 84s., so that 15s. 9d. of the Darwin wage was left "unadjustable". The rate payable from 1st February, 1942 (when the new basis first became operative), on the basis of index-number 1,099 for the December quarter, 1941, was therefore £5 178. 9d., inclusive of 5s. by adjustments under the scale since the December quarter, 1940 (1,036), and the two unadjustable "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. granted by the Court's judgment of 7th April, 1941.

Following the bombing of Darwin on 19th February, 1942, and on subsequent occasions, it was no longer possible to obtain even food and groceries prices in Darwin, and prices from Alice Springs and Tennant Creek were substituted for those of Darwin in the Special Index by means of a suitable "graft" of the new to the old prices in order to cancel out the effect on the index due solely to this substitution.

On an application by the unions for the addition to the basic wage in the Territory of the amount of 7s. per week added by the Court elsewhere in Australia by its "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946 [see page 77, (vi)], the Full Court on 13th March, 1947, decided to postpone the matter pending a general review of the basic wage in the Territory, although the Court granted the amount in the case of areas south of the 20th parallel of South Latitude (see below). This further review was opened in Darwin with preliminary evidence taken by J. H. Portus, C.C., on 16th February, 1948, and ultimately dealt with by the Full Court in Adelaide on 20th May, 1948. The Court made an "interim" judgment, pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949-50 at the instance of the combined unions throughout Australia [see page 78, (vii)], granting the current equivalent of the 7s. referred to above, namely, 8s. In the judgment the Court adopted as from the March quarter, 1948, the new Darwin Special "All Items" Index (containing the restored prices of food and groceries for Darwin proper, plus Townsville prices for rent, clothing and miscellaneous items), namely, 1,283, and transferred the basis of adjustment from the existing Automatic Adjustment Scale ("C"

Series) on 1,000 = 81s. per week to the new Scale on 1,000 = 87s. per week [in conformity with the "Court" Index (2nd Series)]. The new basic wage was expressed to come into operation from the beginning of the first payperiod commencing after 20th May, 1948. The resultant total basic wage payable was therefore £7 os. 9d., made up of £5 12s. (the "needs" equivalent of index-number 1,283 mentioned above), the "unadjustable" amount of 15s. 9d. (see page 89) and the loadings of 3s. and 10s.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 78) an "interim" increase of £1 2s. per week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory. As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order "based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory at £10 10s. per week." The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Darwin Special "All Items" Index (see above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index-number of 1824 equated to 200s. per week. Subsequently by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner, a special loading of Ios. per week operative from the same date as the new basic wage was added to the wage rates in most awards applicable to that part of the Northern Territory north of the 20th parallel of South Latitude. This loading should be taken into account in any analysis or comparison involving the basic wage component of such wage rates.

The basic wage for this area of the Northern Territory was 255s. per week, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953.\*

(b) Northern Territory (South of the 20th parallel of South Latitude).—There are two main groups of employees in this area of the Northern Territory, namely, employees of the Commonwealth Railways and employees of the Department of Works (formerly the Works and Services Branch of the Department of the Interior).

The few Commonwealth Railways employees engaged in the area are at Alice Springs and in several small permanent-way gangs between Alice Springs and the South Australian border.

Prior to 1937 Commonwealth Railways employees were covered by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, but since that year the rates of pay (including the basic wage) have been as prescribed by determinations of the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator. It has been the practice of the Court and the Public Service Arbitrator to fix a common base rate for Commonwealth Railways employees (the main centre being Port Augusta) and to provide, by means of "District Allowances", additional rates to employees in isolated areas.

Prior to 3rd February, 1935, Commonwealth employees (other than Commonwealth Railways employees) engaged in the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of South Latitude were paid the Darwin basic wage. The Full Court in Judgment issued on 13th November, 1934,† fixed a rate of 80s. per week for Works and Services employees, which included an amount

<sup>\*</sup> See Appendix, page 213 hereof, for decision in the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry.  $\dagger$  33 C.A.R., p. 947.

of 7s. per week to cover the cost of freight on goods purchased from the Railway Stores at Port Augusta. This rate compared with £4 ros. 9d. being paid in areas north of the 20th parallel, and with £3 5s. in Adelaide.

Provision was also made for the adjustment of this wage to be made in the manner provided by the Court for railway employees at Alice Springs, namely, on the basis of the Court's "C" series adjustment scale in accordance with the variations of the "Special" index-number for Port Augusta (inclusive of Railway Stores prices for groceries and dairy produce). Although no base index-number was mentioned, it can be taken that the base index-number division of the scale (809–820 = 66s.) was the starting point of the variations and was related to a total basic wage of £4, as this division contained "C" series index-number 819 (Special) for the September quarter, 1934—from which it will also be observed that only 66s. of the total wage was actually adjustable.

The 3s. per week "loading" granted by the Court in 1938 (see page 88) applied to employees located south of the 20th parallel of South Latitude as well as to those engaged north thereof.

At a hearing on 12th and 13th March, 1947, the Full Court granted to workers in this area the amount of 7s. per week consequent upon its "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946, as an addition to the "adjustable" part of the basic wage applicable. The questions raised as to a general review of the basic wage in the Territory as a whole were postponed pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949–50 at the instance of the combined unions of Australia (see page 78).

By an Order of IIth October, 1949, the Full Court amended the existing award to provide for the adjustment to date and thereafter (by means of the "C" Series Automatic Adjustment Scale) of the 7s. per week "excess" over the contemporaneous "needs" rate granted by the Full Court on 13th November, 1934 (see page 90). The relevant "Special" "C" series index-number for the latter period (as indicated above) was 819, equivalent to a "needs" wage of £3 6s. per week, and the above adjustment was effected by an additional column to the Scale calculated on the basis of raising the weekly "needs" equivalents by the ratio of 66s. to 73s., or by multiplying the successive weekly "needs" rates by the factor 1.10606. Thus, the base rate of the Scale 1000 = 87s. became 96s.

The Order was expressed to come into operation from the first Sunday in December, 1949, on the basis of the index-number for the September quarter, 1949, as the starting point. The "needs" rate for this was £6 is. which by the above formula became £6 i.s., and to this were added the loadings previously payable of 7s. for "Freight Costs" and 3s. for "Prosperity" loading, making a total basic wage of £7 4s., representing an increase of 6s. per week over the former basis of calculation.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 78) an "interim" increase of £1 2s. per week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory. As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order "based upon the consent and agreement

of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory at £10 10s. per week". The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Port Augusta Special "All Items" Index (see above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index-number of 1757 equated to 194s. per week. Subsequently by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner, a special loading of 7s. per week operative from the same date as the new basic wage was added to the wage rates in most awards applicable to that part of the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of South Latitude. This loading should be taken into account in any analysis or comparison involving the basic wage component of such wage rates.

The basic wage for this area of the Northern Territory was 242s. per week, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953.\*

5. State Basic Wages.—(i) New South Wales.—The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard "living" wage for adult male employees was made on 16th February, 1914, when the Court of Industrial Arbitration fixed the "living" wage at £2 8s. per week for adult male employees in the metropolitan area. A Board of Trade established in 1918, with power to determine the "living" wage for adult male and female employees in the State, made numerous declarations during the period 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 transferred its powers to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, as from 15th April, 1926. The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act No. 45, 1927, altered the constitution of the Industrial Commission from a single Commissioner to one consisting of three members. Act No. 14 of 1936, however, provided for the appointment of four members and Act No. 36 of 1938 for the appointment of not less than five and not more than six members. The Commission was directed, inter alia, "not more frequently than once in every six months to determine a standard of living and to declare . . . . the living wages based upon such standard for adult male and female employees in the State." The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1932 directed the Commission within twenty-eight days from the end of the months of March and September to adjust the living wages so declared to accord with the increased or decreased cost of maintaining the determined standard. The first declaration of the Commission was made on 15th December, 1926, when the rate for adult males was fixed at £4 4s. per week, the same rate as that previously declared by the Board of Trade. The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife, and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent children. With the adoption in 1937 of the Commonwealth basic wage, however (see below), the identification of a specified family unit with the basic wage disappeared.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates shown in the following table; a living wage for rural workers of £3 6s. per week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921, and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927, to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn.

<sup>\*</sup> See Appendix, page 213 hereof, for decision in the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry.

The variations in the living wage determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales are shown below:—

# Basic Wage Variations in New South Wales. (State Jurisdiction.)

Male	e.		Female.										
Date of Declaration.	Basic V			Date of		Vage							
16th February, 1914 17th December, 1915 18th August, 1916 5th September, 1918 8th October, 1919 8th October, 1920 8th October, 1921 12th May, 1922 11th April, 1923 12th August, 1925 12th June, 1927 12th June, 1927 12th August, 1932 11th April, 1933 12th April, 1933 12th April, 1934 18th April, 1935 12th April, 1935 12th April, 1935 12th April, 1936		£ 8. 2 88 2 12 2 15 3 0 3 17 4 5 4 2 3 10 4 2 4 4 5 4 5 3 18 3 6 7 3 8 3 7 3 8	d. 0 6 6 6 0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 0 0	23rd 23rd 22nd	December Dec	ber, 1918 ber, 1919 ber, 1920 ber, 1921 1922		£ £ 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 (b) I (b) I		d			
27th October, 1936 27th April, 1937		3 10	o 6(c)					I	18	o 6			

(a) Dates of declarations from 1923 on were the same as those for male rate.
(b) Rate declared, £r 158. 6d., but law amended to provide a rate for females at 54 per cent. of that for males.

(c) Hereafter wages are fixed and adjusted quarterly in accordance with the practice of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for details of which and latest rates see below.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 23rd June, 1937, (see page 75) the Government of New South Wales decided to bring the State Basic Wage into line with the Commonwealth rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act (No. 9 of 1937) to give effect thereto. The Act came into operation from the commencement of the first pay-period in October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations of retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's "All Items" retail price index-numbers, shortly known as the "Court" series of index-numbers. The Commonwealth Court's principle of treating the "Prosperity" loadings as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The rates for country towns were, with certain exceptions, fixed at 3s. per week below the metropolitan rate; and Crown employees, as defined, received a "Prosperity" loading of 5s. per week, as against the 6s. laid down for employees in outside industry. The basic rate for adult females was fixed at 54 per cent. of the adult male rate to the nearest sixpence. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility of altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the

intentions of the new Act; to define boundaries within which the various rates are to operate; and to specify the appropriate "Court" series retail price index-numbers to which they are to be related.

An amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act was assented to on 23rd November, 1950, which empowered the Industrial Commission to vary the terms of awards and industrial agreements affecting male rates of pay, to the extent to which the Commission thought fit, to give effect to the alteration in the basic wage for adult males made by the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 12th October, 1950. In the case of female rates of pay the Commission was empowered to review the terms of awards and industrial agreements and to vary such terms as in the circumstances the Commission decided proper, but no variation was to fix rates of pay for female employees lower than the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females.

To facilitate the work of the Commission, awards were divided into separate classes, and orders issued regarding the variations to be made to those in each class. The rates for adult males were increased by the same amounts as the corresponding Commonwealth rates, with special provision to cover the cases of apprentices, casual workers and employees on piecework. In deciding the variation for female employees the Commission prescribed an increase in the total wage rate (i.e., basic wage plus marginal rate) of £1 4s. 6d. per week subject to the statutory provision (incorporated in the amendment of 23rd November) that the minimum total rate was to be not less than the basic wage for adult females prescribed in Commonwealth awards, that is, at least 75 per cent. of the corresponding male basic wage rate.

In the judgment delivered on 9th March, 1951, giving reasons for its decision on female rates, the Commission decided that the basic wage for adult females prescribed by the Commonwealth Court in reality included a portion "due to secondary considerations," and could not be considered a "reasonable and proper basic wage for the assessment of rates of female employees under the Industrial Arbitration Act".

In discussing the composition of the amount of £6 3s. 6d. which the Commonwealth Court in its judgment of October, 1950, had prescribed as the basic wage for adult females in New South Wales, the Commission stated:—

"After giving the matter fullest consideration, we think in the circumstances it is reasonable to allocate £1 of the said sum of £6 3s. 6d. to secondary considerations and to regard the amount of £1 4s. 6d. as an addition proper to be made to the pre-existing basic wage in New South Wales of £3 19s. The total, £5 3s. 6d. becomes therefore the true female basic wage in New South Wales".

As a consequence of the overriding statutory requirement that no rate for adult females in State awards shall fall below the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females, the amount of the quarterly adjustments to the female basic wage for changes in the "Court" series index-numbers is the same in Commonwealth and State awards.

By an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act in June, 1951, the differentiation in rates for the basic wage in different districts and for employees under Crown awards was eliminated as a general rule, making

<sup>\*</sup> See N.S.W. Industrial Gazette 1937, Vol. 52, pages 783-4.

the basic wage throughout most of the State equal to that paid in Sydney, the main exception being the Broken Hill district where a different basic rate still prevails.

The rates applicable from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, in the metropolitan area, under this system of fixation and adjustment, were £12 3s. per week for adult males and £9 2s. for adult females.

The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age operated in New South Wales from July, 1927, until superseded by the Commonwealth Government scheme from 1st July, 1941, and a brief account of the main features of the system appeared on page 103 of Labour Report No. 36.

(ii) Victoria.—Up to October, 1934, no basic wage was fixed by any State authority in Victoria, but the Wages Boards followed the rates of the Commonwealth Court to a large extent, and also made similar periodical adjustments in accordance with variations in retail prices. With the passing of the Factories and Shops Acts, No. 4,275 of 1934 which operated from 17th October, 1934, and No. 4,461 of 1936, it is obligatory on all Wages Boards to adopt Commonwealth Award rates and conditions "which such Boards are under the Factories and Shops Acts empowered to include in their determinations". The 1934 Act further provides for the Secretary for Labour to make adjustments of wages according to variations in retail price indexnumbers without calling the Boards together for the purpose, in respect of all determinations which include an adjustment clause.

In accordance with the decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (see page 79) the Wages Boards met and incorporated the new Commonwealth rates in their determinations.

The adult male weekly rate for Melbourne was increased by 19s. to £8 2s. and the new adult female rate became £6 is. 6d. (75 per cent. of the adult male rate).

The Commonwealth rates for Melbourne operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, were £11 15s. per week for adult males and £8 16s. per week for adult females.

(iii) Queensland.—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act No. 28 of 1929 repealed the Industrial Arbitration Act 1916 and amendments thereof, and the Basic Wage Act of 1925. The Board of Trade and Arbitration was abolished, and a Court, called the Industrial Court, was established. The Act provides that it shall be the duty of the Court to make declarations as to—(a) the "basic" wage, and (b) the maximum weekly hours to be worked in industry (called the "standard" hours). For the purposes of making any such declarations the Court shall be constituted by the Judge and two members one of whom shall be also a member of the Queensland Prices Board.

The main provisions to be observed by the Court when determining the "basic" wage are—(a) the minimum wage of an adult male employee shall be not less than is sufficient to maintain a well-conducted employee of average health, strength and competence, and his wife and a family of

three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living prevailing among employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed, and provided that the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account; (b) the minimum wage of an adult female employee shall be not less than is sufficient to enable her to support herself in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the nature of her duties and to the conditions of living prevailing among female employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed. The Court shall, in the matter of making declarations in regard to the "basic" wage or "standard" hours, take into consideration the probable economic effect of such declaration in relation to the community in general, and the probable economic effect thereof upon industry or any industry or industries concerned.

The first formal declaration of a basic wage by the Queensland Court of Industrial Arbitration was gazetted on 24th February, 1921, when the basic wage was declared at £4 5s. per week for adult males and £2 3s. for adult females. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. per week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its awards as the "basic" or "living" wage. The declarations of the Industrial Court are published in the Queensland Industrial Gazette and the rates declared at various dates are as follows:—

## Basic Wage Variations in Queensland.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.		lult	Bas	sic 7	Wag	е.	Adult Basic Wage.
		Male.			mal	е.	Male. Female.
ist March, 1921 ist March, 1922 28th September, 1925(a) ist August, 1930 ist December, 1930 ist July, 1931 ist April, 1937	4 4 4 3 3	5 0 5	0		3 3 1 19	d. 0 0 0 6 0	

<sup>(</sup>a) Fixed by Basic Wage Act. (b) Quarterly adjustments provided by judgment of 21st April, 1942—see below. (c) Consequent upon basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. (d) By Judgment of the Queensland Industrial Court on 13th October, 1953, quarterly adjustment was continued for the present.

On 15th April, 1942, the Court declared the rates operative from 31st March, 1941, as adequately meeting the requirements of Section 9 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1932, having regard to the level of the ALL ITEMS "C" Series Retail Price Index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1941, and decided to make a quarterly declaration of the basic wage on the basis of the variations in the "cost of living" as disclosed by the "C" Series Index for Brisbane, commencing with the figures for the March quarter, 1942. This declaration was duly made by the Court on 21st April, 1942, at the rates of £4 IIs. for adult males and £2 9s. 6d. for adult females. Since then, quarterly adjustments have been made to the basic wage in accordance with changes in the "C" Series Index.

In view of the "Interim" Basic Wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (see page 77), the Queensland Industrial Court granted an increase in the basic wage of 7s. for adult males and 5s. for adult females to operate from 23rd December, 1946.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (see page 79) the Queensland Industrial Court conducted an inquiry as to what change should be made to the State basic wage for Queensland. By a majority decision on 30th November, 1950, the Industrial Court granted an increase of 15s. weekly to both adult males and adult females thus increasing the metropolitan rates to £7 14s. per week and £5 2s. 6d. per week respectively. The increases became operative from 7th December, 1950.

The new female rate of £5 2s. 6d. represented 66 per cent. of the male rate instead of 63 per cent. (approximately) as previously, and this 66 per cent. determines the basic wage payable to adult females.

The judgment of the Queensland Industrial Court may be found in the supplement to the Queensland Industrial Gazette, Vol. 35, No. 4, page 1253.

The rates payable in accordance with regular quarterly variations from 2nd November, 1953, were £11 2s. for adult males and £7 9s. for adult females.

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the Southern Division (Eastern District—including Brisbane); allowances are added for other areas as follows:—Southern Division (Western District), 7s. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d.; Northern Division (Eastern District), 10s.; and Northern Division (Western District), 17s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.\*

(iv) South Australia.—The Industrial Code 1920-1951 provides that the Board of Industry shall, after public inquiry as to the increase or decrease in the average cost of living, declare the "living wage" to be paid to adult male employees and to adult female employees. The Board has power also to fix different rates to be paid in different defined areas.

It is provided that the Board of Industry shall hold an inquiry for the purpose of declaring the "living wage" whenever a substantial change in the cost of living or any other circumstance has, in the opinion of the Board, rendered it just and expedient to review the question of the "living wage", but a new determination cannot be made by the Board until the expiration of at least six months from the date of its previous determination.

The Board of Industry consists of five members, one nominated by the Minister for Industry, two nominated by the South Australian Employers' Federation as representatives of employers, and two nominated by the United Trades and Labour Council of South Australia as representatives of employees. The member nominated by the Minister is President and presides at all meetings of the Board.

According to the Industrial Code 1920–1951, "living wage" means a sum sufficient for the normal and reasonable needs of the average employee living in the locality where the work under consideration is done or is to be done.

<sup>\*</sup> As defined in Queensland Industrial Gazette, 10th December, 1921, page 826.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 decided that the "average employee" in respect of whom the "living wage" is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the "living wage" for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. per week. The "living wage" for adult female employees in the same area was declared on 11th August, 1921, at £1 15s. per week.

Following on the declaration of an "interim" increase in its "needs" basic wage by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 13th December, 1946 (see page 77) the South Australian Parliament passed the Economic Stability Act No. 52 of 1946. By virtue of this Act and all other enabling powers, the Governor may, by proclamation, declare, interalia, the "daily living wage" for adult males in the metropolitan area to be one-sixth of the Commonwealth basic weekly wage for this area. A proclamation dated 24th December, 1946, was accordingly made by the Governor, declaring the rate of 102s. per week, inclusive of the "prosperity" loading of 4s. This rate operated from 7th January, 1947. The Act mentioned also provided for similar proclamations in respect of any adjustment of such wage, but the powers of the Board of Industry to declare a "living wage" were retained, and any such wage so declared will supersede that declared by proclamation.

The variations in the "living wages" determined by the Board of Industry are shown below, and apply to the whole State:—

# Living Wage Variations in South Australia.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Male			Female,									
Date of Operation.	Living per We		Date of (		Living Wage							
4th August, 1921 27th April, 1922 8th November, 1923 15th May, 1924 13th August, 1925 30th October, 1930 10th September, 1931 7th November, 1937 7th January, 1937 25th November, 1937 25th November, 1940 27th November, 1940 27th November, 1942 26th September, 1942 26th September, 1946 7th January, 1947(b) 8th July, 1948 19th May, 1949		£ s. 3 19 3 17 3 18 4 2 4 5 5 3 15 3 3 3 6 6 3 9 3 14 4 4 4 18 5 2 5 17 6 5 6 7 6 6 5 6	d. 6 6 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Ist Septembe  13th Novemb 3rd Septembe 15th January 24th Decemb 16th January 29th April, 19 (a)	er, 1924 er, 1925 , 1931 er, 1931		£ 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 3	8. 15 18 19 15 11 13 14 16 18 1 3 6 15 17 6 8	d. o 6 0 6 0 0 6 2 0 0 6			

<sup>(</sup>a) From 1937 dates of operation were the same as those for male rates. rate for metropolitan area adopted.

The Industrial Code Amendment Act No. 65 of 1949 made provision for the quarterly adjustment of the "living wage" in accordance with the variations in the Commonwealth basic wage consequent on the changes in the "Court" Series index of retail prices for Adelaide. In effect this resulted in parity between the State Living Wage and the Commonwealth Basic Wage from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1950. The prescribed adjustment to the female "living wage" was seventwelfths of the same adjustment to the Commonwealth male basic wage. The Board of Industry retained power to amend the "living wage" but any new "living wage" was to be adjusted quarterly as above.

Following the decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 78), the South Australian legislation was amended to enable, inter alia, the "living wage" to be altered by proclamation "in order to avoid unjustifiable differences between rates of wage fixed under Commonwealth and State laws respectively". By proclamation dated 30th November, 1950, the South Australian Living Wage in the metropolitan area was increased from £6 17s. to £7 18s. for adult males and from £3 14s. 11d. to £5 18s. 6d. for adult females, operative from 4th December, 1950. These new rates were identical with the December rates fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the metropolitan area of South Australia.

The female rate, which had previously been approximately 54 per cent. of the male basic wage, was, by the proclamation, increased to 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate.

The rates payable in accordance with the quarterly adjustments notified by the President of the Board of Industry, operating from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, were £11 11s. per week for adult males, and £8 13s. for adult females.

(v) Western Australia.—The Court of Arbitration, appointed under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952, determines and declares the "basic wage" in this State. The Court consists of three members appointed by the Governor, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employers, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employees, while the third member is a Judge of the Supreme Court. The last-mentioned member is the President of the Court.

The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912–1952 provides that the Court of Arbitration may determine and declare a basic wage at any time on its own motion, and must do so when requested by a majority of industrial unions or by the Western Australian Employers' Federation, with the limitation that no new determination shall be made within twelve months of the last preceding inquiry.

The term "basic wage" is defined in the Act as "a wage which the Court considers to be just and reasonable for the average worker to whom it applies". In determining what is just and reasonable the Court must take into account not only the "needs of an average worker" but also the "economic capacity of industry" and any other matters the Court deems relevant.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis of its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children.

Provision is also made in the Act for quarterly adjustments of the "basic wage" by the Court of Arbitration when an official statement supplied to the Court by the State Government Statistician relating to the cost of living shows that a variation of is. or more per week has occurred, compared with the preceding quarter. These adjustments apply from the dates of declaration by the Court.

The annual and special declarations of the Court of Arbitration under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act are shown for the various areas in the State in the following table. It must be noted that prior to 1950 the legislation differed from that outlined above. Particulars of the previous legislation will be found in earlier issues of the Labour Report.

Basic Wage Variations in Western Australia.
(State Jurisdiction.)

	Date of Operation.					Metropolitan Area.							South-West Land Division.							Goldfields Areas and Other Parts of State.						
					Male.			Female.			Male.			Female.			Male.			Female.						
				£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.					
ıst.	July,	1926		4	5	0	2	5	II	4	5	0	2	5	II	4	5	0	2	5	II					
22	"	1929		4	7	0	2	7	0	4	7	0	2	7	0	a4	7	0	42	7	0					
9.9	,,	1930		4	6	0	2	6	5	4	.5	0	2	5	II	4	5	0	2	5	II					
,,	,,	1931		3	18	0	2	2	2	3	17	0	2	I	8	3	17	0	2	J	8					
99	2.2	1932		3	12	0	I	18	II	3	13	6	I	19	8	3	18	0	2	2	2					
9-9	,,	1933		3	8	0	I	16	9	3	9	6	I	17	6	3	17	6	2	ī	10					
>>	2.2	1934		3	9	6	I	17	6	3	10	0	I	17	IO	3	19	6	2	2	II					
99	22	1935		3	IO	6	I	18	I	3	ΙI	2	1	18	5	4	4	4	2	5	6					
,,	99	1936		3	IO	6	I	18	I	3	II	9	I	18	9	4	6	0	2	6	5					
22	99	1937		3	13	9	I	19	IO	3	14	8	2	0	4	4	7	0	2	7	0					
99	9.9	1938		4	0	0	2	3	2	4	i	0	2	3	9	4	13	3	2	IO	4					
9 9	9.9	1939		64	2	2	b2	4	4	4	3	I	2	4	IO	64	16	4	62	12	0					
¥9	9.9	1940		4	2	8	2	4	8	4	3	3	2	4	II	4	16	3	2	12	0					
9.9	,,,	1941(c)		4	8	0	2	7	6	4	9	3	2	8	2	5	3	6	2	15	II					
2.9	19	1943		4	19	I	2	13	6	4	18	I	2	13	0	5	5	9	2	17	I					
9.9	,,	1944		4	19	II	2	13	ΙI	4	19	8	2	13	IO	5	7	I	2	17	10					
""	99	1945		5	0	I	2	14	I	4	19	7	2	13	9	5	7	5	2	18	0					
99	,,	1946		5	I	I	2	14	7	5	0	6	2	14	3	5	9	0	2	18	IO					
26th	Feb.	, 1947(d)		5	7	I	2	17	IO	5	6	6	2	17	6	5	15	4	3	2	3					
ıst	July,			5	7	IO	2	18	3	5	7	3	2	17	II	5	16	0	3	2	8					
,,	2.2	1948		5	15	9	3	2	6	5	15	2	3	2	2	6	4	9	3	7	4					
,,	,,	1949		6	7	I	3	8	8	6	6	9	3	8	5	6	15	·I	3	12	II					
99	22	1950		7	0	0	3	15	7	.6	19	9	3	15	6	7	7	3	3	19	6					
8th	Dec.	, 1950( <i>d</i> )		8	6	6	4	14	I	8	6	7	4	14	2	1 6	14	8	4	18	6					
st	22	1951(e)					6	13	8				6	13	0				6	17	Ι					

<sup>(</sup>a) Excluding Goldfields areas, where rates were the same as those operating from 1st July, 1926.
(b) Applicable from 24th April, 1939. (c) Applicable from 28th April, 1941. (d) Special declarations following basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. (e) Inquiry into female rates only.

The first declaration of the "basic wage" by the Court of Arbitration since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court by the Industrial Arbitration Act of 1925 was made on 11th June, 1926, when the rate for adult male employees was determined at £4 5s. per week, and for adult female employees at £2 5s. 11d. per week. Since that date the principal inquiries have been those of 1938, 1947, 1950 and 1951.

The declaration of 13th June, 1938 (operative from 1st July) was based on the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920 (see page 102). For this purpose the Court reduced the amount recommended by the Commission for a five-unit family to the equivalent for a four-unit family, and brought the resulting amounts up to their purchasing equivalents at the March quarter, 1938, by means of the separate "group" retail price index-numbers in respect of the sections for food, clothing and miscellaneous expenditure, and for rent added an amount which was considered fair under ruling conditions.

The increased basic wage of 26th February, 1947, was granted after an inquiry by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration consequent upon the "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (see page 77).

Following the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 78) the Western Australian Court of Arbitration resumed an inquiry which had been adjourned, to ascertain what change should be made in the State basic wage rates. In its judgment of 7th December, 1950, the Court decided that the basic wage should be increased by £1 per week for adult males and by 15s. per week for adult females. The rates in the metropolitan area then became £8 6s. 6d. for adult males and £4 14s. 1d. for adult females, operative from 18th December, 1950. In relation to the female rate the unions' claim had been for a basic wage equal to 75 per cent. of the male rate instead of the existing 54 per cent basis. Although this claim was not granted it was intimated that the increase of 15s. should not necessarily be regarded as the Court's final word on the subject.

The judgment of the Court may be found on page 336 of the Western Australian Industrial Gazette, Volume 30, Nos. 3-4.

As the result of a subsequent inquiry\* the basic wage for adult females was increased to 65 per cent. of the corresponding male rate, operative from 1st December, 1951. This was subject to the condition that the increase should be offset by the reduction in or deletion of existing margins between the basic wage and total wage as specified by the appropriate award or determination.

The rates payable in the metropolitan area in accordance with the quarterly adjustments declared by the Court, operating from 27th July, 1953, were £12 6s. 6d. for adult males and £8 os. 3d. for adult females.

(vi) Tasmania.—No State basic wage is fixed by any State authority in Tasmania, but Wages Boards follow to a large extent the rates of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and adjust wages automatically or otherwise in accordance with variations in retail price index-numbers in conformity with provisions of the Wages Boards Act.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 78) the Tasmanian Wages Boards met and incorporated the new Commonwealth basic wage rates in their determinations. The adult male weekly rate for Hobart was increased by £1 Is. to £8 and the new adult female rate became £6 (75 per cent. of the adult male rate).

<sup>\*</sup> See Western Australian Industrial Gazette, Vol. 31, p. 496.

The Commonwealth adult male rate for Hobart operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, was £12 2s. and the adult female rate is 75 per cent. of the male rate (£9 Is. 6d.).

(vii) Rates Prescribed.—The "basic wage" rates of State industrial tribunals operative in August, 1952 and 1953 are summarized in the following table:—

State Basic Wages: Weekly Rates.

Gt. t	A	ugust,	1952	•		A	ugust,	1953		
State.	Date of Operation.	Mal	es.	Fema	iles.	Date of Operation.	Mal	es.	Fema	les
New South Wales—  Metropolitan and		8.	d.	8.	d.		8.	d.	8.	d.
Country, excluding Broken Hill Broken Hill Victoria (b) Queensland—	(a) (a) (a)	235 243 224		176 182 168		(a) (a) (a)	243 247 235	0 0	182 185 176	0
Southern Division (Eastern District) including Bris-										
bane (c)	28.7.52 (a)	213	0	142 168		3.8.53 (a)	219 231	0	147 173	
Metropolitan Area South-West Land	28.7.52	232	3	151	0	27.7.53	246	6	160	3
Division Goldfields and other	28.7.52	232	5	151	Ι	27.7.53	246	0	159	II
$egin{array}{lll} {f areas} & . & . & . & . & . & . & . & . & . & $	28.7.52 (a)	238 222	0	154 166	8	27.7 53 (a)	249 242	4	162 181	6

<sup>(</sup>a) Operative from beginning of first pay-period commencing in month shown. (b) None declared but rates (Capital City) shown are those of Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration which are followed to a large extent. (c) Allowances added for other areas:—Males—Southern Division (Western District), 78. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d.; Northern Division (Eastern District), 178. 4d.; Females—Half of these allowances.

- 6. Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.—The Commonwealth Government appointed a Royal Commission in 1919 to inquire into and report upon the following matters:—
  - (i) The actual cost of living at that time, according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household, for a man with a wife and three children under fourteen years of age, and the several items and amounts which made up that cost.
  - (ii) The actual corresponding cost of living during each of the previous five years.
  - (iii) How the basic wage might be automatically adjusted to the rise and fall from time to time of the purchasing-power of money.

The Commission issued two reports—the first in November, 1920, and the second in April, 1921. These reports show that, according to the standard assumed by the Commission, the cost of living as at 1st November, 1920, for a family consisting of man, wife, and three children under fourteen years of age, was as follows:—

Royal Commission on the Basic Wage: Cost of Living, 1st November, 1920.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobert.
Food Rent Clothing Miscellaneous	£ s. d. 2 6 9 1 2 0 1 7 0 1 1 4	£ s. d. 2 6 2 1 0 6 1 9 0 1 0 10	£ s. d. 2 3 I 0 17 0 I 6 0 I 0 I	£ s. d. 2 7 2 0 19 6 1 8 3 1 1 2	I 2 3	£ s. d. 2 8 11 0 19 0 1 9 2 0 19 10

(a) Weighted Average Six Capitals-£5 158. 8d., but no recommendation made.

The corresponding costs of the commodities and services included (which are fully set out in the first report) for the years 1914 to 1920 were as follows:—

Royal Commission on the Basic Wage: Cost of Living, 1914 to 1920.

Years.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919	£ s. d. 3 12 11 4 1 6 4 4 6 4 9 8 4 14 8 5 5 3 5 17 1	£ s. d. 3 7 9 3 16 9 3 17 5 4 2 2 4 8 10 4 18 5 5 16 6	£ s. d. 3 4 0 3 11 3 3 13 10 3 19 3 4 6 0 4 15 10 5 6 2	£ s. d. 3 II 2 3 I9 0 3 I9 7 4 3 2 4 I0 II 5 2 6 5 I6 I	£ s. d. 3 12 9 3 17 1 4 1 2 4 4 2 5 0 9 5 13 11	£ s. d. 3 6 9 3 15 1 3 15 6 4 4 10 4 8 6 5 0 4 5 16 11

In answer to the third clause of the inquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (i.e., such a family as is described in Clause I)". After consulting the Commonwealth Statistician as to methods of collection and tabulation, the Government decided that the recommendation would be met by widening the scope of inquiries of this nature already made by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the outcome of which was the creation of the "C" Series Retail Price Index particulars of which are published on pages 5, 10, 18 and 27 of this Report.

The recommendations of this Commission in respect of the basic wage were not carried out, owing largely to the marked advance the amounts suggested represented over ruling rates,\* and the grave doubts expressed as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

The standards of this wage, however, were implemented to a certain extent in the "Living Wage" declarations of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales in 1926 to 1932.

The amounts recommended were also adopted with slight modifications by the Industrial Court of Western Australia in 1926 and again in 1938 on the basis of a four-unit family, further particulars of which will be found on page 101.

The "Harvester" equivalent for Melbourne as at the time (September quarter, 1920) was £4 13s.
 per week, but only £3 18s. to £4 2s. was being paid on the basis of an annual index-number.

7. Child Endowment.—The Commonwealth Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question of child endowment from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of the cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. per week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission submitted its report on 15th December, 1928. It was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

The findings and recommendations in the majority and minority reports were given in Labour Report No. 19.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra in May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt a scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment. It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

Early in 1941, the Commonwealth Government announced its intention to introduce a scheme of child endowment throughout Australia. The necessary legislation\* was introduced into Parliament on 27th March, and the passage through all stages was completed on 3rd April, 1941. The scheme came into operation from 1st July, 1941. As amended to date (November, 1953) its main features are as follows:—

Any person who is a resident of Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are immates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child.

From 20th June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been-

(a) where the endowee has one child only, 5s. per week;

(b) where the endowee has two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child, 5s. per week and in respect of each other child, Ios. per week;

(c) in the case of the endowee being an approved institution the rate is Ios. per week for each child inmate.

There are provisions to cover cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, death of a parent or other circumstances. In such cases payment may be made to the father, mother or other person.

<sup>\*</sup> Act No. 8 1941 (Child Endowment Act) as amended by No. 5, 1942 and Nos. 10 and 41, 1945 (now Part VI. of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947–1953).

A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born here.

There is a twelve months residential requirement for claimants and children who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia.

Endowment will be paid for the children of members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of the arrival of the children in Australia.

From 1st July, 1941, when the scheme was introduced the rate of endowment was 5s. per week for each child in excess of one in a family and for each child under 16 years in an approved institution, the rate being increased to 7s. 6d. a week from 25th June, 1945, and to 10s. per week from 9th November, 1948. There is no means test.

Endowment in respect of the first child under 16 years in a family was first provided for by an amendment of the legislation in June, 1950.

Consequent upon the operation of the Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme, appropriate steps were taken for the termination of existing schemes operating in New South Wales and the Commonwealth Public Service. The New South Wales system of child endowment was in operation from July, 1927 to July, 1941, and the Commonwealth Public Service system operated from November, 1920, until July, 1941. Details of these schemes appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (see No. 36, page 103).

A summary of the operations of this scheme during the five years 1948-49 to 1952-53 is given below:—

#### Child Endowment: Australia.

	Endowed at 30th	Families June.	Approved I	nstitutions.	Total
Year.	Number of Families.	Number of Endowed Children.	Number of Institutions.	Number of Endowed Children.	Number of Endowed Children.
1948-49 1949-50 1950-51 1951-52 1952-53	 620,819 662,949 1,150,847 1,205,421 1,246,986	1,083,994 1,813,925 2,365,177 2,493,246 2,599,026	369 375 370 379 376	21,305 22,397 23,753 24,623 24,951	1,105,299 1,836,322 2,388,930 2,517,869 2,623,977

Year.	Amount Paid to Endowees and Approved Institutions.	Annual Liability for Endown ent on 30th June.	Average Annual Rate of Endowment per Endowed Family on 30th June.	Average Number of Endowed Children per Endowed Family on 30th June.	Number of Endowed Children in each 10,000 of Population
1948–49 1949–50 1950–51 1951–52 1952–53	£ 24,323,413 30,337,363 43,584,614 46,625,052 53,243,722	£ 28,737,774 39,126,035 47,151,169 49,794,121 52,012,584	£ 45.398 58.139 40.434 40.777 41.190	1.746 2.736 2.055 2.068 2.084	1,370 2,216 2,805 2,883 2,943

# CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

# § 1. Employment.

I. General.—Data on which this section is based are divided into three main categories: (a) Censuses, 1933 and 1947, and quasi-Censuses; (b) monthly returns for Pay-roll Tax purposes, supplemented by regular collections of Government employment; and (c) reports from trade union secretaries.

The first quasi-Census was the National Register, July, 1939. It covered males aged 18-64 years and, supplemented by other data, provided estimates for July, 1939. The Civilian Register, June, 1943, and Occupation Survey, June, 1945, covered civilians aged 14 years and over and were supplemented by records of the Defence Forces.

Pay-roll Tax returns first became available in July, 1941.

2. Total Occupied Persons.—(i) Australia.—The estimates in the table below are divided into three categories: (a) Defence Forces; (b) all persons fully occupied as employers, or self-employed in businesses or on farms; and (c) wage or salary earners fully employed, or occupied as casual, part-time, intermittent or seasonal wage earners. Unemployed wage earners are excluded.

Male unpaid "helpers" in rural industry, who numbered about 35,000 in June, 1933, and about 21,000 in June, 1947, have been included with employers and self-employed persons, as it is considered that the majority of these are sons or other close relatives of farmers working in an unofficial partnership or as learners with the farm owner. Unpaid "helpers" in other industries, who numbered about 6,000 males and 4,000 females in June, 1933, have been included with wage and salary earners. Unpaid female "helpers" on farms are very numerous, some 22,000 being shown on Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics returns for March, 1947. Generally they are occupied mainly in home duties. All women occupied in unpaid home duties have been excluded from the category of occupied persons.

Statistics of net enlistments in the Defence Forces shown in the table below represent total enlistments for full-time duty less deaths and discharges. Prior to December, 1941, men in certain age-groups were called up for short training courses but these men are excluded from the figures. In July, 1941, the number of such men was approximately 50,000.

Total Occupied Persons: Australia. ('000.)

Year and	Defence Forces (Net		loyers and loyed Pers		Wage a	nd Salary	Earners.	Total Occupied	Total Occupied
Month.	Enlist- ments).	Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.	Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.	Civi- lians.	Persons including Forces.
				MALE	8.				
1933 — June 1939 — July 1941 — July 1943 — June 1945 — June(c)	5.8 12.9 b282.8 685.0 603.5 53.2	292.4 300.0 284.0 262.0 287.5 278.9	248.3 299.0 208.0 150.0 187.1 286.8	540.7 599.0 492.0 412.0 474.6 565.7	200.0 202.0 188.0 120.9 130.2 148.2	992.0 1293.1 1363.4 1273.2 1294.2 d1649.4	1192.0 1495.1 1551.4 1394.1 1424.4 d1797.6	1732.7 2094.1 2043.4 1806.1 1899.0 d2363.3	1738.5 2107.0 2326.2 2491.1 2502.5 d2416.5

See footnotes on following page.

# Total Occupied Persons: Australia—continued.

				, , , ,			-		
	Defence Forces		oyers and oyed Pers		Wage an	nd Salary	Earners.	Total	Total Occupied
Year and Month.	(Net Enlistments).	Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.	Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.	Occupied Civi- lians.	Persons including Forces.
				FEMA	LES.				
1933—June 1939—July 1941—July 1943—June 1945—June(c)	1.8 44.0 45.4 0.8	15.1 16.0 14.0 11.7 17.0	56.2 62.0 56.8 34.4 43.1 55.8	71.3 78.0 70.8 46.1 60.1 69.6	4.4 4.0 6.0 28.1 23.0 8.1	(e) 447.5 561.6 656.2 682.1 667.1 d659.9	451.9 565.6 662.2 710.2 690.1 d668.0	523.2 643.6 733.0 756.3 750.2 d737.6	523.2 643.6 734.8 800.3 795.6 d738.4
				PERSO	ONS.				
1933—June 1939—July 1941—July 1943—June(c) 1947—June	5.8 12.9 b284.6 729.0 648.9	307.5 316.0 298.0 273.7 304.5	304.5 361.0 264.8 184.4 230.2 342.6	612.0 677.0 562.8 458.1 534.7 635.3	204.4 205.0 194.0 149.0 153.2 156.3	1439.5 1854.7 2019.6 1955.3 1961.3 d2309.3	1643.9 2060.7 2213.6 2104.3 2114.5 d2465.6	2255.9 2737.7 2776.4 2562.4 2649.2 d3100.9	2261.7 2750.6 3061.0 3291.4 3298.1 d3154.9

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 50,000 men called up for short training courses. (c) 1st June, 1945 (Occupation Survey). (d) Preliminary estimate, subject to revision. (e) Includes females, in thousands, in private domestic service as follows:—106.7 in June, 1933; 124.5 in July, 1939; 100.0 in July, 1941; 41.5 in June, 1943; 47.6 in June, 1945; 40.3 in June, 1947.

The numbers of persons in the Defence Forces in June, 1947, shown in the foregoing table include those serving outside Australia who were omitted from the Census taken in that month. The numbers of employers and self-employed persons and wage and salary earners in rural industry are in accordance with the final results of the Census. Estimates, based on Pay-roll Tax returns, etc., are shown in the table above for wage and salary earners employed in industries other than rural. The estimate of 659,900 female wage and salary earners employed in non-rural industries includes 40,300 private domestics (the figure from the June, 1947, Census). The remaining 619,600 females in the estimate include females working part-time. The 1947 Census figure for the same industries (i.e., excluding rural and private domestic) was 579,200. Persons working regularly but for considerably less than normal working hours were instructed on the Census Schedule to exclude themselves from the work force, unless their earnings from such work formed their principal means of livelihood.

From June, 1933, to July, 1939, the number of occupied persons of both sexes increased by 488,900, due to the increase of 223,700 in the number of persons available and offering for gainful occupation and to the decrease of 265,200 in the number unemployed from 563,200 to 298,000.

During the war years from July, 1939, to June, 1943, the total labour force increased by 268,600. The Defence Forces absorbed 716,000 drawn from the following sources:—

(a) Net decrease in number of occupied civilians—175,000;

(b) Decrease in unemployment-272,000;

(c) Net expansion of total labour force—269,000.

Based on the pre-war trends, it was estimated that item (c) above included about 180,000 persons whose entry into the labour force could be attributed solely to war-time conditions.

The total labour force expanded by 37,000 between June, 1943 and June, 1945, the numbers of males and females both increasing. During 1945–46 and 1946–47, as demobilization of the Defence Forces progressed, there was

a rapid increase in the number of occupied civilians, but the effective labour force is estimated to have decreased by 105,200 (males 51,800; females, 53,400). The decrease was mainly the result of two factors—firstly, retirement of some persons who entered the Defence Forces or civilian employment solely on account of war conditions and who normally would not have sought gainful employment; secondly, entry of ex-Service personnel into full-time training courses.

From July, 1939, to June, 1943, persons occupied in rural industry declined from 522,000 to 422,700 and recovered to about 449,000 in June,

1947.

The numbers occupied in industries other than rural were 2,215,700 in July, 1939; 2,139,700 in June, 1943; 2,191,500 in June, 1945; and 2,651,900 in June, 1947. Employers and self-employed persons in these industries decreased from 361,000 in July, 1939, to 184,400 in June, 1943, partly as a result of enlistments in the Defence Forces but chiefly as a result of changing to wage or salary earning. By June, 1947, employers and self-employed persons had increased to 342,600.

(ii) States.—The following table shows total occupied males and females in each State in July, 1939, and June, 1947, divided into Defence Forces,

employers and self-employed persons and wage and salary earners.

Total Occupied Persons: States.

				(1000)	.)				
State.		(Net Enl	Forces istments).	Self-em	Employers and Self-employed Persons.		Wage and Salary Earners.		occupied including ces.
		July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947. (b)	July, 1939.	June, 1947. (b)
91.7				MALES	3.				
New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania		4.9 4.4 1.0 1.1 1.0	23.1 15.9 5.9 2.6 3.4 0.8	216.2 162.9 95.1 54.6 47.4 21.5	197.5 158.1 96.9 51.8 39.8 20.1	596.2 399.5 218.6 127.7 99.7 46.9	723.6 480.9 255.4 154.4 115.6 58.1	817.3 566.8 314.7 183.4 148.1 68.9	944.2 654.9 358.2 208.8 158.8 79.0
				FEMALE	IS.				1
New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania			0.3 0.4 0.1	28.4 25.5 11.1 6.0 4.8 2.2	25.4 22.4 10.2 5.2 4.3 1.9	220.8 175.3 71.2 47.4 33.2 16.3	268.8 203.4 83.2 52.9 38.4 19.0	249.2 200.8 82.3 53.4 38.0 18.5	294.5 226.2 93.5 58.1 42.7 20.9
				PERSON	S.				
New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	4.9 4.4 1.0 1.1 1.0	23.4 16.3 6.0 2.6 3.4 0.8	244.6 188.4 106.2 60.6 52.2 23.7	222.9 180.5 107.1 57.0 44.1 22.0	817.0 574.8 289.8 175.1 132.9 63.2	992.4 684.3 338.6 207.3 154.0 77.1	1066.5 767.6 397.0 236.8 186.1 87.4	1,238.7 881.1 451.7 266.9 201.5 99.9

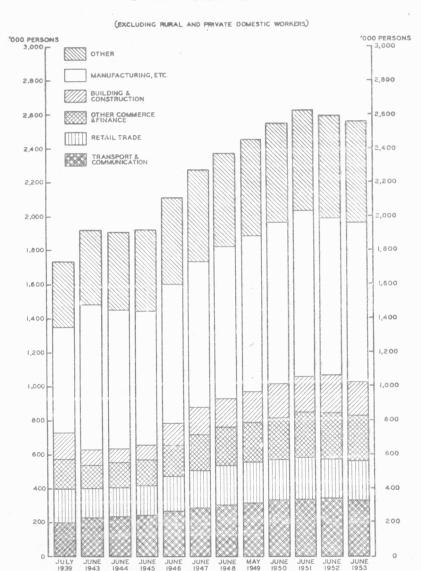
<sup>(</sup>a) Includes those serving outside Australia.

Between July, 1939, and June, 1947, the occupied population of Australia (including Defence Forces but excluding unemployed, pensioners, retired, persons of independent means and dependents) increased by approximately 14.7 per cent. The proportionate increase in each State was as follows: New South Wales, 16.1; Victoria, 14.8; Queensland, 13.8; South Australia, 12.7; Western Australia, 8.3; Tasmania, 14.3.

<sup>(</sup>b) Preliminary figures subject to revision.

# WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: AUSTRALIA 1939 AND 1943 TO 1953

BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS



3. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment.—(i) Australia: Industrial Groups.—Estimates are made monthly of wage and salary earners in employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female domestics in private homes), based on Pay-roll Tax returns and returns of Government employment. Pay-roll Tax returns cover only a small proportion of wage earners on rural holdings, and practically no private domestic servants. - It is not possible to obtain actual numbers of farm employees and private domestic servants except when a Census or quasi-Census such as the Occupation Survey (1st June, 1945) is taken, but estimates have been made from time to time using available data. The next table shows the trend in that section of wage and salary earning employment which it is possible to estimate monthly. Figures given as at July, 1939 are based on the National Register. From July, 1941 (commencement of Pay-roll Tax returns), the estimates are available for each month, and the table shows the level in May, 1949, and in June of the years 1950 to 1953. Figures for June, 1949, were affected by the Australia-wide black coal dispute which commenced on 27th June, and ended on 15th August, 1949, and figures for May have therefore been substituted for purposes of annual comparison. (Current figures are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics).

The table shows total male and female wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry, female private domestics, persons on the paid strength of the Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in camp) subdivided to show the extent of employment provided by Governmental authorities and by private employers respectively. Principal industrial groups shown in the table include both private employees and Governmental employees, if any. The manufacturing employnent figures in this table are not comparable as to either absolute level or trend with those shown on pages 113 and 114 below.

# Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment: Industrial Groups, Australia.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

			('000	.)				
Industri	al Group	).	July, 1939.	May, 1949. (a)(b)	June, 1950. (a)	June, 1951. (a)	June, 1952.	June, 1953. (a)
	•		MALES	5.				
Mining and Quarrying Manufacturing, etc.(e) Building and Construct Rail and Air Transpot Other Transport and C Retail Trade Other Commerce and Health Education Entertainment, Sport Personal Services Other	tion rt Communi Finance		 52.2 456.I 149.7 73.0 112.9 259.7 17.8 22.I 17.4 37.0 95.2	52.3 692.6 180.9 99.1 182.6 125.6 169.9 24.7 29.7 18.4 54.4 156.9	53.9 716.4 197.2 100.9 127.1 178.0 24.8 30.7 18.0 55.9 163.9	55.8 733.0 212.7 100.9 193.8 129.7 188.4 24.8 31.9 18.0 54.6	58.8 721.4 214.0 106.9 193.0 124.8 191.2 25.3 33.2 18.1 53.2 168.2	58.0 726.4 193.1 104.9 190.2 125.0 191.0 25.5 35.4 18.2 51.6
Total  Governmental $(d)$ Private Employers			 349.8 943.3	518.9	1,858.7 553.5 1,305.2	570.4 1,341.1	577·4 1,330.7	1,886.7 566.7 1,320.0
Total			 1,293.1	1,787.1	1,858.7	1,911.5	1,908.1	1,886.7

See footnotes on following page.

# Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment: Industrial Groups, Australia—continued.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

		('000.	)				
Industrial	Group.	July, 1939.	May, 1949. (a)(b)	June, 1950. (a)	June, 1951. (a)	June, 1952. (a)	June, 1953. (a)
1		FEMALE	S.				
Mining and Quarrying Manufacturing, etc.(c) Building and Constructi Rail and Air Transport Other Transport and Co Retail Trade Other Commerce and Fi Health Education Entertainment, Sport an Personal Services Other Total Governmental (d) Private Employers Total	on mmunication	 0.3 169.0 1.2 2.5 10.1 }114.9 34.0 32.0 4.0 43.0 26.1 437.1 55.2 381.9	0.7 221.9 3.1 8.0 29.0 {111.1 59.8 62.0 37.7 8.8 71.3 50.7 664.1	0.7 230.4 3.3 8.0 30.8 113.3 64.8 65.0 39.1 8.4 72.8 51.6 688.2	0.8 241.1 3.8 8.2 31.9 119.1 71.3 67.4 39.7 8.7 72.1 54.7 718.8 113.8 605.0	0.9 206.3 4.2 8.6 30.9 112.6 72.9 68.7 41.8 8.6 68.9 55.0 679.4 115.2 564.2	0.9 209.8 4.3 7.7 28.5 109.9 71.5 68.8 43.3 8.7 65.8 54.5 673.7
		 PERSON	S.				
Mining and Quarrying Manufacturing, etc.(e) Building and Construct Rail and Air Transport Other Transport and Co Retail Trade Other Commerce and F Health Education Entertainment. Sport a Personal Services Other.  Total  Governmental(d) Private Employers  Total	ion ommunication inance	 52.5 625.1 150.9 75.5 123.0 374.6 51.8 54.1 21.4 80.0 121.3 1,730.2 405.0 1,325.2	53.0 914.5 184.0 1007.1 2217.6 6 { 236.7 229.7 86.7 67.4 27.2 125.7 207.6 2,451.2	54.6 946.8 200.5 108.9 222.7 240.4 242.8 89.8 69.8 26.4 128.7 215.5 2,546.9	56.6 974.1 216.5 109.1 225.7 248.8 259.7 92.2 71.6 26.7 126.7 222.6	59.7 927.7 218.2 115.5 223.9 237.4 264.1 94.0 26.7 122.1 223.2 2,587.5 692.6 1,894.9	58.9 936.2 197.4 112.6 218.7 234.9 262.5 94.3 78.7 26.9 117.4 221.9 2,560.4

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Figures for May, 1949, have been used for purposes of annual comparison because of the effects of the coal dispute in June, 1949. (c) Estimates (subject to revision) based on Pay-roll Tax returns, etc., of employees predominantly engaged in secondary production. The figures include a considerable number of employees outside the scope of the factory employment figures as defined and published on pages 113 and 114. (d) Includes employees of Commonwealth, State and Local Government Authorities.

During the year ended June, 1953, the total decrease in the numbers of wage and salary earners in employment (excluding rural wage earners, female domestics in private homes and Defence Forces) was 27,100 (males 21,400; females 5,700). Employees of public authorities decreased by 14,000 and those employed by private employers decreased by 13,100.

During this period employment decreased in most industrial groups, the following being the more important—Building and Construction, 20,800; Transport and Communication, 8,100; and Personal Services, 4,700. The most important increases were:—Manufacturing, etc., 8,500 and Education, 3,700.

(ii) States.—Statistics of total employment of wage and salary earners (excluding rural and female private domestic employment and Defence Forces) since 1933 are shown for each State in the next table.

# Wages and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment: States.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

		1	('000.	.)			
Year and Month.	New South Wales	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia (a)
			MALES				I
1933—June 1939—July 1941—November 1947—June(b) 1948—June(b)	380.6 529.9 556.8 671.8	288.6 357.5 405.1 452.6	139.8 172.8 167.9 220.2	80.5 106.7 121.0 140.9	70.1 82.9 83.2 103.9	29.0 37.4 39.4 51.1	992.0 1293.1 1381.4 1649.4
1949— $May(b)(c)$ 1950— $June(b)$ 1951— $June(b)$ 1952— $June(b)$ 1953— $June(b)$	702.3 721.4 740.8 758.2 754.4 734.3	473·3 489·3 510·7 525.8 524·4 521.6	232.6 239.8 250.4 259.3 258.1 255.2	149.0 155.0 165.7 170.0 171.5 170.6	109.2 112.8 120.5 125.3 126.0	54.5 57.4 58.4 60.2 61.0	1730.9 1787.1 1858.7 1911.5 1908.1
	7,54-5	322.0	FEMALES		130.2	61.7	1886.7
1933—June 1939—July 1941—November 1947—June(b) 1948—June(b) 1949—May(b)(c) 1950—June(b) 1951—June(b) 1952—June(b)	125.8 168.0 229.3 252.1 261.9 269.9 278.5 290.9 270.5 266.2	118.2 142.9 192.8 190.5 196.7 202.5 210.0 219.6 206.6 205.9	40.5 53.2 62.6 74.5 77.9 80.1 83.1 86.1 83.8 83.7	26.0 34.0 45.6 48.0 50.1 52.2 54.3 57.0 54.9 53.4	20.6 26.2 32.6 35.6 37.0 37.8 39.9 41.6 40.5 41.0	9.1 11.6 15.2 16.9 18.0 18.8 19.4 20.3 19.8 20.1	340.8 437.1 579.8 619.6 644.0 664.1 688.2 718.8 679.4 673.7
1933—June			PERSONS	-			
1933—June 1939—July 1941—November 1947—June(b) 1948—June(b) 1959—June(b) 1951—June(b) 1952—June(b) 1953—June(b)	506.4 697.9 786.1 923.9 964.2 991.3 1019.3 1049.1 1024.9	406.8 500.4 597.9 643.1 670.0 691.8 720.7 745.4 731.0 727.5	180.3 226.0 230.5 294.7 310.5 319.9 333.5 345.4 341.9 338.9	106.5 140.7 167.5 188.9 199.1 207.2 220.0 227.0 226.4 224.0	90.7 109.1 115.8 139.5 146.2 150.6 160.4 166.9 166.5	38.1 49.0 54.6 68.0 72.5 76.2 77.8 80.5 80.8 81.8	1332.8 1730.2 1961.2 2269.0 2374.9 2451.2 2546.9 2630.3 2587.5 2560.4

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.
 (c) See note (b) to table on page 111.

(b) Subject to revision.

In all States except Queensland employment of male wage and salary earners in civilian work, excluding rural, was higher in November, 1941, than at the outbreak of war. The male employment level then commenced to decrease and continued to do so in most States until the second quarter of 1943–44. In Queensland, however, the downward movement was very slight. There was then a general, though slight, upward trend (except in South Australia) until the end of the war. Demobilization of the Defence Forces resulted in a rapid increase in male employment in all States in 1945–46 and 1946–47. Male employment in each State continued to increase during each of the next four years, the highest employment on record being reached in March, 1952. During 1952–53 the numbers employed fell continuously during the first half of the year but rose again from February to June, 1953.

After the outbreak of war, female wage and salary earners (excluding rural workers and domestics in private homes) increased rapidly in all States. The peak level during the war (646,000) was reached in December, 1943. From June to December, 1943, there was only a slight total increase. Victoria and South Australia had already passed their respective peaks of female employment. In January, 1946, female employment reached its lowest level (588,400) since January, 1942, having declined in all States after the end of the war, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. From January, 1946, female employment increased in all States and in May, 1949, had passed the war-time peak. The post-war peak was reached in November, 1951, and was followed by a steady fall until January, 1953.

Female employment increased slightly in February, 1953, and thereafter

remained fairly stable until the end of 1952-53.

(iii) Factories.—In the following table is shown the mid-year number of employees in the main factory classes in each of the years 1949 to 1952 compared with 1939. The figures refer to the reported employment in factories as defined for the purposes of the annual production census, results of which are published annually in the Secondary Industries Bulletin. In this connexion a factory is defined as an industrial establishment in which four or more hands are employed, or in which power, other than hand, is used. The employees covered are those engaged in manufacturing activities and exclude working proprietors and those engaged in selling and distribution, etc.

Employment in Factories according to Main Classes: Australia. ('000.)

	( 00					
Class of Factory.			Number	of Emplo	yees in Ju	ne—
		1939.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
	MAL	ES.		,		
Treatment of Non-matallice 35	,					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine						
Quarry Products		9.8	14.6	16.1	17.1	17.0
Bricks, Pottery, Glass		14.3	17.4	18.3	т8.9	18.
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.		14.6	25.3	26.6	27.9	28.
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.		161.6	295.7	316.3	330.3	337 - 2
Jewellery, Watches, etc		2.8	4.9	5.0	4.6	3.8
Textiles (including knitted goods)		18.3	29.5	29.7	30.6	23.0
Skins and Leather		8.0	11.5	12.2	II.I	10.1
Clothing (including shoes)		19.1	29.5	29.4	30.3	27.1
Food, Drink and Tobacco		57.6	85.5	85.4	87.9	85.6
Sawmilling and Woodworking		27.5	45.5	47.6	50.9	50.0
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc		II.2	15.6	16.8	18.0	15.7
Paper, Printing, etc		26.7	36.3	38.0	39.I	39.3
Rubber		4.9	9.5	10.2	10.7	10.6
Musical Instruments and Miscellane	eous					1
Manufactures		5.4	12.6	12.7	13.2	11.5
Heat, Light and Power		9.2	13.0	13.4	14.1	15.1
Total		391.0	646.4	677.7	704.7	695.1
F	EMAL	ES.		-		
Prontment of Non-motallica Mr.	,		-			
Preatment of Non-metalliferous Mine			}			
Quarry Products		0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
Bricks, Pottery, Glass		0.8	1.3	1.5	1.6	I.5
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.		5 · 7	7.9	8.6	9.2	8.5
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.		9.4	30.2	34.9	39.1	34.6
Jewellery, Watches, etc.		0.5	1.0	I.I	I.2	0.9
Cextiles (including knitted goods)		27.2	35.0	36.7	38.8	30.1
Skins and Leather		2.5	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.0
Clothing (including shoes)		61.3	83.2	84.0	87.7	71.7
Food, Drink and Tobacco		20.9	29.2	30.4	31.0	28.7
Sawmilling and Woodworking		0.9	2.0	2.I	2.4	2.3
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc		2.7	2.9	3.2	3.5	2.9
Paper, Printing, etc		11.6	13.8	14.3	15.3	14.3
Rubber		2.3	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.4
Instruments and Miscellane	ous					4
Manufactures		2.4	6.3	6.9	7.0	5.5
Heat, Light and Power		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total		148.6	219.6	231.2		

# Employment in Factories according to Main Classes: Australia—continued. ('000.)

			Number o	f Employe	ees in Jun	e—
Class of Factory.		1939.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
PE	ERSON	rs.				
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine at Quarry Products Bricks, Pottery, Glass Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc. Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc. Jewellery, Watches, etc. Textiles (including knitted goods) Skins and Leather Clothing (including shoes) Food, Drink and Tobacco Sawmilling and Woodworking Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc. Paper, Printing, etc. Rubber Musical Instruments and Miscellaneo Manufactures Heat, Light and Power		10.0 15.1 20.3 171.0 3.3 45.5 10.5 80.4 78.5 28.4 13.9 38.3 7.2 7.8 9.4	15.1 18.7 33.2 325.9 5.9 64.5 15.1 112.7 114.7 47.5 18.5 50.1 12.1	16.7 19.8 35.2 351.2 6.1 66.4 16.2 113.4 115.8 49.7 20.0 52.3 13.0	17.8 20.5 37.1 369.4 5.8 69.4 14.8 118.0 118.9 53.3 21.5 54.4 13.7 20.2	18.3 20.0 36.7 371.8 4.7 54.0 13.1 98.8 114.3 53.2 18.6 53.0 17.0
Total		539.6	866.0	908.9	949.0	902.

## § 2. Unemployment.

I. Total Persons Unemployed.—The total number of persons unemployed has been recorded only at the dates of the various Censuses. The following table sets out the number of unemployed at the Censuses of 1911, 1921, 1933 and 1947, the National Register, 1939, and the Occupation Survey, 1945. The percentage which the unemployed bore at each date to all wage and salary earners, comprising those estimated to be in employment and those unemployed, is also shown.

#### Unemployment (All Causes): Australia.

Year and Month.		and Salary E Unemployed.		nd Salary oyed.		
rear and monon.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	'000.	'000.	,000.	%	%	%
1911—April (Census)	48.0	8.3	56.3	4.3	2.7	4.0
1921—April "	139.4	21.5	160.9	10.7	5.7	9.6
1933—June (a) "	460.2	103.1	563.3	27.9	19.1	25.8
1939—July (b)	264.0	34.0	298.0	15.0	5.7	12.6
1945—June (c)	39.9	16.2	56.1	2.7	2.3	2.6
1947—June (Census) $(d)$	66.6	16.9	83.5	3.6	2.5	3 • 3

<sup>(</sup>a) The figures shown for 1933 are in excess of those actually recorded at the Census, an allowance having been made for a number of youths and girls who would normally have been wage and salary earners, but who, on account of the economic depression, having never been employed, were not classed as wage and salary earners.

(b) Derived from the National Register, 1939.

(c) Derived from the Occupation Survey, 1945.

(d) Persons in the work force who were not at work at the time of

The estimates and percentages of unemployment given above for periods subsequent to the Census of 1933 should be interpreted in conjunction with the notes which follow.

The estimates for 1939 were based on the National Register, which covered males aged 18-64 years, and data available from other sources. The proportion of wage earners unemployed in July, 1939, immediately prior to the 1939-45 War, was estimated at approximately 12½ per cent. In July, 1941, it was about 4 per cent. and by June, 1943, under conditions of intensive mobilization of manpower for war purposes, involuntary unemployment was practically nil. Owing to the use on the Occupation Survey (1945) card of the definition "a person normally working for wages but without a job on 1st June", it appears that the 1945 figures exclude some persons who were temporarily absent from their jobs at the date of the survey. Of the numbers at the 1947 Census shown above, 25.6 per cent. were not at work owing to sickness or accident and 26.6 per cent. stated that they were resting. Of the latter, approximately half said they expected to resume their former jobs. The numbers in need of financial relief on account of unemployment in June, 1947, were quite small. Details of unemployment benefits are shown in § 5.

2. Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions.—(i) General.—The collection by this Bureau of information relating to unemployment amongst trade unionists was initiated in 1912, when special inquiries were forwarded to officials of trade unions throughout Australia for particulars for that year, and for information relating to previous years, as far back as 1891.

Since 1913, information concerning the extent of unemployment of trade unionists has been collected at quarterly periods, and the results of the investigations have been published in the Official Year Book, Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, Monthly Review of Business Statistics, and the Labour Report. The percentages of unemployment derived from Trade Union returns are an indication of the trend of unemployment amongst trade unionists as estimated or recorded by the secretaries of trade unions which supply returns. The membership of the reporting unions consists predominantly of males, and represents at present about 53 per cent. of the total trade union membership and between 25 and 30 per cent. of all wage and salary earners. Returns are not collected from unions whose members are predominantly in permanent employment (Governmental, etc.) or casual employment (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In some cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work.

Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been recorded by collecting returns quarterly since 1st January, 1913. The quarterly figures show the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter: they include persons out of work through sickness but exclude persons out of work through strikes and lock-outs except those outside the industry who are indirectly affected. The yearly figures quoted (including percentages) represent the average of the four quarters.

(ii) Australia, 1891 to June Quarter, 1953.—The following table gives particulars for Australia for the years 1891 to 1953 (June Quarter) in respect of:—

(a) The number of unions for which returns as to unemployment are available; (b) The number of members of such unions; (c) The number of members unemployed; and (d) The proportion of members unemployed to total number of members.

Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions: Australia.

				Members Ur	nemployed.
Period.		Unions.	Number of Members.	Number.	Proportion of Membership.
					%
891 (end of year	r)	25	6,445	599	9.3
1896 ,, ,,		25	4,227	457	10.8
1901 ,, ,,		39	8,710	574	6.6
1906 ,, ,,		47	11,299	753	6.7
1911 ,, ,,		160	67,961	3,171	4.7
1916 (average fo	r vear)	473	290,075	16,783	5.8
921 ,,	,,	449	361,744	40,549	II.2
1926 ,,	,,	374	415,397	29,326	7.1
1931 ,,	22	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1932 ,,	,,	395	415,434	120,454	29.0 (a)
1936 ,,	,,	392	441,311	53,992	12.2
1939 ,,	,,	396	476,918	45,967	9.7
1941 ,,	,,	395	536,660	20,013	3.7
1942 ,,	,,	394	613,534	9,754	1.6
1943 ,,	99	390	678,713	7,545	I.I
1944 "	,,	389	681,684	8,073	I.2
1945 ,,	,,	388	673,750	7,864	I.2
1946 ,,	,,	383	672,121	9,125	I.4
1947 ,,	,,	381	718,096	8,432	I.2
1948 ,,	,,	380	761,104	6,533	0.9
1949 ,,	,,	377	790,630	15,342(b)	2.0 (b
1950	,,	375	827,106	6,654	0.8
1951 ,,	,,	374	860,525	5,776	0.7
1952 (c) ,,	,,	366	856,126	24,247	2.9
vous Mansh		380	785,468	5,898	0.8
1949 March June	,,	380	792,428	6,337	0.8
September	. ,,		776,195	43,030(b)	5.5 (b
December		373 375	808,428	6,103	0.8
December	,,	3/3	300,42	-,3	
1950 March	,,	375	822,464	6,963	0.8
June	,,	375	819,331	6,361	0.8
September		375	828,094	7,038	0.8
December	,,	374	838,536	6,253	0.7°
Your Monch		271	848,571	E 543	0.7
1951 March June	,,	374	848,929	5,543 6,612	0.8
September	99	374	866,314	4,902	0.6
December		374 374	878,285	6,047	0.7
December	,,	3/4	0,0,200	0,047	/
1952 March	,, (c)	366	862,607	9,078	1.1
June	,, (c)	366	857,126	19,023	2.2
September		366	844,848	33,967	4.0
December		366	859,925	34,920	4.1
3.6	(-)	-66	9 000	00 077	
1953 March	,, (c)	366	851,889 853,668	28,915	3.4
June	,, (c)	365	ll members of repor	26,417	3.1

<sup>(</sup>a) Highest on record. (b) Includes all members of reporting unions indirectly affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry; those directly affected are, however, excluded. (c) Subject to revision.

<sup>(</sup>iii) Australia, by Industrial Groups, 1952.—The next table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries or occupations in which employment is stable, such as railways, and those which are subject to exceptional fluctuations, such as wharf labour, pastoral, agricultural, etc., are not included. Other occupations—domestic, hotel employees, etc.—are included in the "Other and Miscellaneous" group, as their returns are not sufficiently representative. The figures are averages for the year.

# Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions: Industrial Groups, Australia, 1952.(a)

	Unions F	deporting.	Unem	ployed.
Industrial Group.	Number.	Members.	Members.	Proportion of Members.
Manufacturing— I. Wood, Furniture, etc. II. Engineering, Metal	16	28,464	885	%_ 3.2
Works, etc III. Food, Drink, Tobacco,	57	241,674	3,922	1.6
etc	53 11 10 59	50,544 39,376 32,056 63,904	2,261 1,017 277 4,964	4.5 2.6 0.9 7.9
VII. Building VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. X. Land Transport other than	51 15	109,383	3,501 680	3.2
Railway and Tramway Services IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV.,	20	57,573	2,785	4.8
Other and Miscellaneous	74	209,314	3,955	1.9
All Groups	366	856,126	24,247	2.9

(a) Subject to revision.

(iv) Australia, by Industrial Groups, September Quarter, 1939, and Quarterly, September, 1951 to June, 1953.—The following table gives for various industrial groups the percentages of members of trade unions returned as unemployed from the September quarter of 1951 to the June quarter of 1953. The percentage of unemployed in the September quarter of 1939 is also inserted for purposes of comparison.

Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions: Proportion Unemployed, Industrial Groups, Australia.

(Per Cent.)

		(= 0=	DOLLU-						
	1939.	19	51.		1	952.		19	53.
Industrial Group.	Sept. Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	March Qtr.	June Qtr. (a)	Sept. Qtr. (a)	Otr.	March Qtr. (a)	June Qtr. (a)
Manufacturing—  I. Wood, Furniture, etc. II. Engineering, Metal	18.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	1.6	4 · 3	6.3	5 · 5	4.I
Works, etc. III. Food, Drink, Tobacco,	8,.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.6	2.6	1.8	2.I	1.5
etc. IV. Clothing, Textiles,	18.4	I.I	1.0	1.9	3.6	6.3	6.2	4.8	4.8
v. Books, Printing, etc.	13.3 5.1 9.9	0.4 0.2 I.6	0.6 0.1 1.3	1.8 0.1 3.0	2.9 0.3 5.2	3.9 1.7 10.4	I.9 I.3 I2.0	1.1 0.5 9.2	0.3
VII. Building VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc	9.3 12.6	0.8	1.3	1.1	2.I 2.6	3.8	5.8 3.1	5.6	7.6 6.4 2.4
X. Other Land Transport IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous	8.7 7.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	5.6	5·7 3·3	6.7 2.6	2.6	2.8
AUSTRALIA	10.2	0.6	0.7	I.I	2.2	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.1

(a) Subject to revision.

(v) States, 1952.—In making interstate comparisons of unemployment percentages, allowance must be made for the circumstance that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not identical in the various States, and that for some States the returns are more representative than for others. The State percentages shown below, therefore, should not be read as indicating the relative degree of unemployment amongst unionists in the individual States but as an indication

of the trend of unemployment within each State as estimated or recorded by secretaries of those trade unions which supply returns. The figures in the following table are averages for the year 1952.

Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions: 1952.(a)

		Unions R	eporting.	Unemployed.			
State.		Number.	Members.	Number.	Proportion of Members.		
New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania	 	99 75 50 53 58 31	352,245 236,767 114,354 79,130 53,368 20,262	11,382 7,285 2,079 1,949 796 756	% 3.2 3.1 1.8 2.5 1.5 3.7		
Australia	 	366	856,126	24,247	2.9		

(a) Subject to revision.

(vi) States, 1933 to 1952 and Quarterly, March, 1950 to June, 1953.— The results of the quarterly investigations as to unemployment in the years 1913 to December, 1949, were published in previous issues of this Report and in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics. The following table shows for each State the percentage of members of trade unions returned as unemployed for the years 1933 to 1952 and quarterly from March, 1950 to June, 1953:—

Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions: Proportion Unemployed.
(Per Cent.)

		(= 0=	OCLIVA				
Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Australia
1933 (Average for year)	24.7	22.3	15.3	29.9	24.8	18.6 17.4 13.2	25.1 20.5 16.5
1935 ,, ,,	20.6	14.0	8.7 7.8	17.6	13.4	9.8	12.2
1937 ,	9.9	9.0 8.6 10.4	7·3 6.4 5·9 5·5	8.2 8.3 9.3 7.0	5.6 5.7 7.1 5.6	7·3 7·9 8.1 5·2	9·3 8·7 9·7 8.0
1940 ,, ,, 1941 ,, ,,	4 - 7	2.5	4.5	2.7	2.9	3 • 3	3.7
1942 ,, ,,	1.4 1.6 1.5	0.7 0.8 0.9	2.3 1.2 0.7 0.7 0.9	1.1 0.9 1.0 1.3	1.6 1.5 1.5 1.2	0.8 1.3 0.8 1.0 2.0	I.I I.2 I.2
1947 ,, ,, 1948 ,, ,, 1949(a) ,, ,, 1950 ,, ,, 1951 ,, ,,	3.2 1.0 0.8	1.2 0.8 0.7 0.7 0.6 3.1	0.7 0.4 0.9 0.4 0.4 1.8	1.0 1.1 2.3 0.9 0.8 2.5	1.2 0.9 0.9 1.1 0.7 1.5	2.3 0.7 0.6 0.6 0.9 3.7	1.2 0.9 2.0 0.8 0.7 2.9
1950 March Qtr June ,,	1.0	0.7 0.5 0.7 0.7	0.3 0.3 0.5 0.3	0.7 0.7 1.1 0.9	1.0 1.5 0.8 0.9	0.6 0.8 0.5 0.4	0.8 0.8 0.8
1951 March Qtr	0.9	0.6 0.6 0.5 0.7	0.2 0.8 0.2 0.4	0.7 0.8 0.8 0.8	0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7	0.6 1.0 1.2 0.9	0.7 0.8 0.6 0.7
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	. 2.8	1.0 1.6 4.9 4.8	1.1 1.8 2.5 1.8	0.9 2.0 3.8 3.2	0.5 1.6 2.4 1.5	1.1 3.4 5.2 5.2	I.I 2.2 4.0 4.I
- 955 ==================================	3.9	3.8	2.2	2.8	I.6 I.2	4 · 7 3 · 3	3 · 4 3 · I

3. Unemployment, Various Countries.—In the following table the percentage of unemployment in various countries is shown for each month of 1952. The figures are obtained chiefly from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Comparisons of the relative percentages of unemployment in the countries shown in the following table should be made with caution as the statistics are of varying scope and value according to the type and sources of the data. The absolute figures are of limited significance, their principal value being from the point of view of fluctuations or changes in unemployment.

#### Unemployment in Various Countries during 1952.

		Percentage Unemployed in Month of—											
Country.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average for Year
Australia (a) Canada (b) Denmark (c) Ireland (d) Sweden (e) Switzerland (f) United States (g)	 20.2 10.1 2.8 1.6 3.3	I.I  16.0 IO.3 2.8 2.8 3.4	4.I 16.3 10.I 2.7 1.6 2.9	9·3 10.3 2.0 0.6 2.6	2.2 2.0 8.9 9.2 1.4 0.4 2.6	7.8 8.2 1.7 0.2 2.8	7·5 8·1 2·1 0·2 3·0	4.0 1.6 9.2 8.4 1.3 0.2 2.5	9.5 7.6 1.3 0.2 2.3	9.2 8.1 1.5 0.3 2.0	4.I 2.2 II.0 9.I 2.4 0.7 2.2	2.5 24.6 9.1 5.6 2.1 2.2	2.9 2.5 12.5 9.1 2.3 0.9 2.6

(a) Returns from trade unions representing 53 per cent. of total trade union membership.

(b) Estimates based on quarterly sample surveys of the labour force each of which refers to a specific week. (c) Unemployed members of trade union unemployment insurance funds. (d) Compulsory unemployment insurance returns. (e) Trade union returns. (f) Wholly unemployed registered at labour exchanges. (g) Estimates based on monthly sample surveys of the labour force in a specific week of each month.

# § 3. Commonwealth Employment Service.

The Commonwealth Employment Service was established under Section 47 of the Re-Establishment and Employment Act 1945, and under the Social Services Legislation Declaratory Act 1947.

The principal function of this Service, as set out in Section 48 of the first-mentioned Act, is to provide services and facilities in relation to employment for the benefit of persons seeking to change employment, or to engage labour, and to provide facilities to assist in bringing about and maintaining a high and stable level of employment throughout the Commonwealth. The Act also gives the Service a number of specific functions in relation to the re-establishment of ex-servicemen.

The Service also assists in the administration of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits, provided under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947–1953, as well as the Re-Employment Allowance provided under the Re-Establishment and Employment Act for certain classes of discharged members of the Forces. All persons who wish to claim unemployment benefits or re-employment allowances must register with their residential Employment Office which is responsible for checking their claim and for certifying whether or not suitable employment can be offered to them.

In addition to giving advice on employment problems through a network of District Employment Offices, the Service provides free vocational guidance in each State other than New South Wales by means of a staff of qualified psychologists. (In New South Wales a similar service is provided by the

New South Wales Department of Labour, Industry and Social Welfare who act as agents for the Service in this regard.) While vocational guidance is available to any individual, it is provided particularly for juveniles entering employment for the first time, for ex-servicemen, and for physically and mentally handicapped persons. Invalid pensioners being considered by the Department of Social Services for training under the provisions of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947–1953, are examined by the Vocational Guidance Branch before training is provided. During the twelve months ended June, 1953, the Service provided vocational guidance for 9682 individuals.

Under the scheme operated by the International Refugee Organization (since replaced by the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration) for the resettlement of Displaced Persons from Europe following the 1939–45. War, the Commonwealth Employment Service is responsible for placing in employment the workers amongst these people so that their services will be of most use in increasing production. Up to 30th June, 1953, more than 100,000 workers had been so placed.

Towards the middle of 1950 the Service assumed a new responsibility, that of placing migrants from Great Britain under the Commonwealth-Nominated Migration Scheme. Following the agreements entered into with the Dutch, West German, Greek and Italian Governments for the entry of selected European workers into the country, the Commonwealth Employment Service has undertaken the initial placement of such persons.

Since early in 1951, the Commonwealth Employment Service has been responsible for the registration, medical examination, interview and call-up of young men for training in the Armed Forces under the National Service Act 1951–1953 which is administered by the Department of Labour and National Service. The Service is also responsible for administering the provisions of the Act relating to the protection of the rights of National Service trainees in relation to their civil employment.

In association with its placement activities, the Commonwealth Employment Service carries out regular surveys of the labour market in all areas and supplies detailed information on the employment situation to Government Departments and instrumentalities and to the public. In order to assist in making effective placements, job analysis studies of Australian occupations are also made.

The Service operates within the Employment Division of the Department of Labour and National Service, and is under the control of the Permanent Head of that Department. It functions on a decentralized basis. The Central Office is in Melbourne, and there is a Head Office in the capital city of each State, with 118 District Employment Offices and Branches in suburban and the larger provincial centres, and with 355 agents in the smaller country centres responsible to the various District Employment Offices. The District Offices and Branches are distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 46; Victoria, 29; Queensland, 19; South Australia, 9 (including Darwin); Western Australia, 11; Tasmania, 4.

The Service completed its seventh year of operation in May, 1953. During the year ended June, 1953, there were 601,449 new registrations of applicants for employment of whom 345,152 were referred to employers and 242,799 placed in employment. Corresponding figures for the year ended June, 1952,

were 500,178, 381,991 and 271,125 respectively. During 1952–53 there were 332,101 new notifications of vacancies, compared with 387,888 during 1951–52. Vacancies unfilled were 22,523 at the end of June, 1953 and 37,930 at the end of June, 1952.

# § 4. State Labour Exchanges.

Details concerning the organization and administration of State Labour Exchange Organizations in the several States were given in Labour Report No. 30, page 133. With the setting up of the Commonwealth Employment Service referred to in the preceding section these exchanges have been superseded and by August, 1952, when the Queensland State Labour Bureau was taken over by the Commonwealth, all States had vacated the Employment Service field.

# § 5. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

I. General.—A very important addition was made to Commonwealth social legislation when the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act 1944, (from 1st July, 1947, incorporated in the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947–1953) received the Royal Assent on 5th April, 1944.

The Act came into operation on 1st July, 1945, and is financed from the National Welfare Fund. The first payments were made on 19th July, 1945.

Persons eligible include all males between the ages of 16 and 65 years and all females between the ages of 16 and 60 years who have lived in Australia for the twelve months immediately preceding the claim or who satisfy the Director-General of Social Services that they intend to remain permanently in Australia and who are not receiving a service pension under the Repatriation Act or an invalid, age, or widow's pension or a tuberculosis allowance.

The payment of unemployment benefit is subject to the claimant being capable of undertaking and willing to accept suitable employment. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Officer is necessary. Except where the applicant lives in remote or inaccessible areas of Australia or where for some good reason it is impossible to do so, the payment of sickness benefit is subject to the production of a medical certificate or some other satisfactory evidence.

2. Maximum Rates of Benefits and Income.—The maximum weekly rates of benefits payable, as at 1st September, 1953, for both unemployment and sickness and permissible income were as follows; these rates operated from 27th September, 1952.

			Per-		Total								
Age and Conjugal Condition.	Claima	int.	Dependent Spouse.	Chile	1.	Total.		Total.		missible Income.		Benefit Plus Income	
Unmarried—	8.	d.	s. d.	8.	$\overline{d}$ .	8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d.		
16 years and under 17 years	30	0				30	0	5	0	35	C		
17 years and under 18 years	30	0				30	0	IO	0	40	C		
18 years and under 21 years	40	0				40	0	15	0	5.5	C		
21 years and over	50	0				50	0	20	0	70	(		
Married	50	0	40 .0	5	0	95	0	20	0	II5	(		

Where an unmarried claimant has the custody, care, and control of a child under the age of sixteen years, the total benefit may be increased by 5s. per week.

Additional benefit (not exceeding 40s. per week) may be paid in respect of claimant's housekeeper where no such benefit is payable in respect of his wife, provided there are one or more children under sixteen years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant, but is not employed by him.

3. **Means Test.**—All benefits are subject to a means test which disregards the value of property owned by a claimant. In applying the means test for sickness benefit, any amount up to 40s. per week received by claimant from a friendly society or other approved benefit society is disregarded. For the purpose of calculating unemployment benefit, the income of the claimant and spouse is taken into account, but in the case of sickness benefit the claimant's income only will be considered in determining the amount of benefit because of the possession of other income.

A war pension is not regarded as income in assessing unemployment and sickness benefit, except where benefit is claimed for the same disability for which a war pension is granted.

Where a person is entitled to some other payment such as workers' compensation in respect of the disability for which he claims sickness benefit, payment will be made only to the extent to which such other payment is less than the amount of the sickness benefit.

In the case of unemployment the Act provides for payment of benefit for the duration of the unemployment, and in the case of sickness for the duration of temporary incapacity. Where incapacity through sickness becomes permanent, an invalid pension may be granted, subject to the conditions governing the grant of invalid pensions.

- 4. Waiting Period.—There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable.
- 5. **Special Benefit.**—A special benefit may be granted at a rate not exceeding that which might otherwise have been payable in cases of hardship where a person is not qualified for either sickness or unemployment benefit by reason of his inability to comply with one or other of the statutory requirements.
- 6. Rehabilitation.—Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible for participation in the Commonwealth rehabilitation scheme under the same conditions as invalid pensioners and persons receiving a tuberculosis allowance. The grant or continuance of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training to do any suitable work.

In the year 1952-53 the number of unemployment and sickness beneficiaries examined was 8,395 of whom 841 were accepted for treatment or training, and the number placed in employment was 586.

7. Unemployment Benefits.—(i) Number on Benefit.—The following table shows the number of persons on benefit at the end of each month from January, 1952, to June, 1953:—

Number of Persons on Unemployment Benefit at End of Each Month.(a)

	New			South	Wes-	-		Australia	à.
Month.	South Wales.	Vic- toria.	Queens- land.	Aus- tralia. (c)	tern Aus- tralia	Tas- mania.	Males.	Fe- males.	Per-
1952—January	 336	53	2,190	3	48	5	2,265	370	2,635
February	 460	40	2,293	4	50	5	2,253	599	2,852
March	 858	III	2,742	23	55	7	2,708	1,088	3,796
April	 1,370	279	2,530	18	55	. 9	2,861	1,400	4,261
May	 2,687	379	2,016	57	82	24	3,617	1,628	5,245
June	 4,613	1,133	2,055	153	236	104	6,108	2,186	8,294
July	 7,300	2,947	2,188	448	618	179	10,522	3,158	13,680
August	 13,661	6,454	2,631	878	954	299	20,628	4,249	24,877
September	 15,982	7,058	2,716	954	790	306	23,428	4,378	27,806
October	 19,004	7,042	3,200	1,062	875	367	27,112	4,438	31,550
November	 20,839	7,685	3,289	1,080	921	316	29,275	4,855	34,130
December	 25,118	7,817	4,452	1,209	1,233	257	34,775	5,311	40,086
1953—January	 23,653	8,416	7,034	1,205	1,136	189	36,817	4,816	41,633
February	 20,867	5,158	7,002	730	816	188	29,940	4,821	34,761
March	 17,802	4,422	5,882	644	701	223	25,303	4,371	29,674
April	 16,871	5,454	4,972	658	700	250	24,446	4,459	28,905
May	 15,351	5,630	4,333	576	654	243	22,517	4,270	26,787
June	 14,629	5,939	3,677	655	691	323	21,552	4,362	25,914

<sup>(</sup>a) Last Saturday of month. Northern Territory.

(ii) Payments made.—The amounts paid in unemployment benefits for the months January, 1952, to June, 1953, are shown in the following table:—

Unemployment Benefit Payments During Each Month.

(£.)

Month.	New South Wales.(a)	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia
February February March April May June July August September October(c) November December	3,200	626	12,580	17	491	50	16,964
	2,437	427	20,843	18	297	35	24,057
	3,400	440	17,903	150	345	41	22,279
	7,758	684	17,491	116	326	67	26,442
	9,856	3,116	15,385	128	434	118	29,037
	21,360	3,589	15,743	430	906	317	42,345
	34,071	11,489	12,661	1,312	2,595	654	62,782
	56,949	24,538	15,203	3,834	5,493	2,352	108,369
	100,804	39,079	11,275	6,930	5,548	2,269	165,905
	191,158	59,386	42,868	12,679	11,969	4,637	322,697
	248,248	95,338	44,939	13,106	12,166	5,745	418,642
	330,172	59,407	46,716	10,559	16,408	3,702	466,964
February March April May June	338,123	99,797	74,702	21,979	15,376	4,927	554,904
	382,754	111,402	94,216	17,089	11,031	3,199	619,691
	279,087	75,693	91,651	14,348	14,321	4,135	479,235
	234,925	72,897	84,918	6,855	10,596	3,309	413,500
	248,784	131,876	85,432	10,996	9,555	3,126	489,769
	241,222	142,830	58,418	12,355	8,674	3,790	467,289

<sup>(</sup>a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. were increased from 27th September, 1952 (see page 121).

(c) Rates

#### § 6. Industrial Disputes.

I. General.—The collection of information relating to industrial disputes involving stoppage of work in Australia was initiated by this Bureau at the beginning of the year 1913. Particulars for the first complete year were published in Labour Report No. 5, Section XI. An examination of

<sup>(</sup>b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

<sup>(</sup>c) Includes

official reports, newspapers, and other publications showed that there was insufficient material for the compilation of complete information for years prior to 1913.

A graph showing, for the years 1913 to 1951, the number of working days lost as a result of industrial disputes appeared on page 133 of Labour Report No. 40.

2. Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1952.—The following table deals with industrial disputes involving stoppage of work during the year 1952 in industrial groups.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1952 was 1,627 as compared with 1,344 during the previous year. In New South Wales 1,316 disputes occurred in 1952, 1,106 of which involved workpeople engaged in the coal-mining industry. Working days lost during 1952 amounted to 1,163,504 for all disputes in Australia, as compared with 872,974 working days lost during 1951. The estimated loss of wages was £3,439,850 in 1952 as compared with £2,256,028 for the year 1951.

#### Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1952.

			Estab-	Work	people In	volved.		Esti-
Class.	Industrial Group.	Num- ber.	lish- ments In- volved.	Directly.	In- directly.	Total.	Working Days Lost.	mated Loss in Wages.
II. III. V. VI. VII. VIII. IX. X. XI. XIII. XIV.	New South Wales. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. Food, Drink, etc. Books, Printing, etc Other Manufacturing Building (ii) Coal-mining (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc. Railway and Tramway Services Other Land Transport Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc Domestic, Hotels, etc Miscellaneous	89 11 3 17 16 1,106 4 13 7 42 1	2,000 40 3 17 16 1,758 7 13 7 564 1	72,474 2,826 829 5,611 742 182,675 2,632 2,326 2,112 58,629 40 3,094	7,220 1,088 75 2,378 72 144 1,854  275	79,694 3,914 9,964 7,989 814 182,819 4,486 2,326 2,112 58,904 40 3,094	349,526 16,026 5,554 33,975 5,290 261,307 13,871 3,228 7,368 64,060 3,575	£ 975,609 43,021 13,079 93,744 14,810 850,676 66,556 7,723 18,540 185,294 247 10,320
	Total (b)	1,316	4,433	333,990	13,106	347,096	763,860	2,279,619
II. VI. VII. VIII. IX. XI.	Victoria. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. Food, Drink, etc. Other Manufacturing Building (i) Coal-mining (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc. Railway and Tramway Services Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	6 7 1 5 3 1 2 8	1,255 13 2 24 3 1 4	36,815 2,635 25 433 1,701 18 854 18,272	 976  137  27 27	36,815 3,611 25 570 1,701 45 881 18,272	61,247 22,686 800 13,738 1,701 540 881 14,746	154,009 89,405 2,125 39,019 6,000 2,500 2,667 43,384
	Total	33	1,441	60,753	1,167	61,920	116,339	339,109
II. III. VI. VII. VIII.	Queensland. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. Food, Drink, etc. Other Manufacturing Building (ii) Coal-mining (iii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	2 5 1 2 109 1 75	165 5 1 2 136 1 261	2,957 1,682 100 57 7,710 120 26,672	40 910  674	2,997 2,592 100 57 8,384 120 26,672	3,007 4,547 100 74 23,417 4,860 40,281	.6,792 11,231 200 245 74,798 24,796 117,852
	Total	195	571	39,298	1,624	40,922	76,286	235,914

#### Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1952-continued.

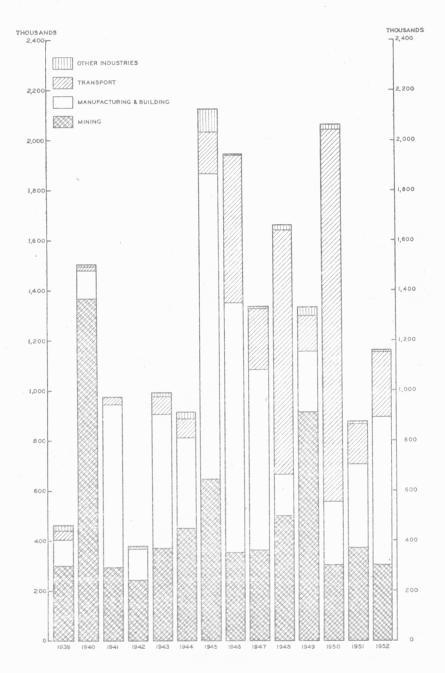
			Estab-	Work	people In	volved.		Esti-
Class	Industrial Group.	Num- ber.	lish- ments In- volved	Directly.	In- directly	. Total.	Working Days Lost.	mated Loss in Wages.
	South Australia.							£
II. VII. VIII. IX. XI	Engineering, Metal Works, etc. Other Manufacturing Building (ii) Other Mining, Quarries etc.	1 6 3 1 1 2 18	5 294 3 1 1 2 188	100 10,300 84 130 118 45 13,631	 106 1,517 	100 10,406 1,601 130 118 45 13,631	18,589 28,474 130 472 45	2,915 68,668 54,918 325 891 101 47,225
	Total	32	494	24,408	1,623	26,031	64,738	175,043
I.	Western Australia. Wood, Furniture, etc.	ı	/	17		17	26	70
VI. VIII. IX. X. XI	Engineering, Metal Works, etc. Other Manufacturing (i) Coal-mining Railway and Tramway Services Other Land Transport Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc	7 1 1 2 1 8	190 2 1 3 1 73	5,501 83 162 5,361 136 7,894		5,503 83 162 5,361 136 7,894	24,877 166 324 86,188 68 16,177	74,147 360 1,006 245,702 205 48,168
	. Total	21	271	19,154	2	19,156	127,826	369,658
II.	Tasmania. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.							
VII. IX. XI.	Food, Drink, etc. Building Railway and Trumway Services Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	2 1 2 2 19	56 1 2 2 96	1,514 4 238 2,015 6,527	33 	1,514 5 271 2,015 6,527	1,514 55 807 2,015 9,752	3,409 200 1,530 4,685 29,816
	Total	26	157	10,298	34	10,332	14,143	39,640
	Australian Capital Territory.							
VII.	Building ,.	I	I	20		20	40	105
377	Northern Territory.							
XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc	3	3	257	• •	257	272	762
Ι.	Australia. Wood, Furniture, etc.		6	117		TT /7	1 026	2.085
VIII.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc. Food, Drink, etc. Books, Printing, etc. Other Manufacturing Building	2 112 24 3 23 27 1,219 7 21 8 173 1	3,960 59 3 25 46 1,898 10 24 8	117 129,561 7,147 829 5,903 1,620 192,248 2,888 10,601 2,248 131,882 40 3,094	7,368 2,975 75 3,895 242 818 1,881 27	117 136,929 10,122 904 9,798 1,862 193,066 4,769 10,628 2,248 132,157 40 3,094	1,026 458,760 43,314 5,554 63,515 20,079 286,749 19,743 92,357 7,436 161,316 80 3,575	2,985 1,282,634 143,857 13,079 151,347 56,034 94,743 260,878 18,745 472,501 10,320
	Total	1,627	7,371	488,178	17,556	505,734	1,163,504	3,439,850

<sup>(</sup>a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. (b) Three disputes commenced in, and were uncompleted at the end of 1951 in New South Wales, involving three establishments and 271 workpeople. These figures have been included in the statistics for both 1951 and 1952.

Note.—The above figures exclude approximately 85,000 working days lost in all States as a result of the ban on overtime in the stevedoring industry during April, May and June, 1952.

# INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA, 1939 to 1952

# WORKING DAYS LOST - INDUSTRIAL GROUPS



3. Industrial Disputes, 1939 and 1948 to 1952.—(i) Australia.—The following table shows in industrial groups the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages for each of the years 1948 to 1952, with the aggregate for the same period. Figures for the year 1939 have also been inserted.

Industrial Disputes: Australia.

	Industrial Disputes: Australia.									
	Manu- facturing.	Building.	Mining. (G	roup VIII.)	Transport,	Miscel-	ALL			
Year.	(Groups I. to VI.)	(Group VII.)	(i) Coal- mining.	(ii) Other Mining.		(Groups XII.				
			Num	IBEB.						
1939 .	20	3	362	4	6	. 21	416			
1948	60	13	974	2	68	24	1,141			
1949	68	3	644	3	122	9	849			
1950	118	. 21	953	3	159	22	1,276			
1951	142	25	912	4	242	19	1,344			
1952 (a)	164	27	1,219	7	202	8	1,627			
1948-52 (a)	552	, 89	4,702	19	793	82	6,237			
		V	Vorkpeopl	E INVOLVE	ED.	v =				
1939	8,818	57	137,792	900	2,017	3,246	152,830			
1948	17,347	2,612	198,849	1,360	92,395	4,586	317,149			
1949	25,358	284	146,948	928	78,165	12,894	264,577			
1950	80,994	10,768	178,734	3,638	150,462	7,105	431,701			
1951	71,606	3,667	172,732	2,843	156,608	1,136	408,592			
1952 (a)	157,870	1,862	193,066	4,769	145,033	3,134	505,734			
1948-52(a)	353,175	19,193	890,329	13,538	622,663	28,855	1,927,753			
			Working ]	DAYS LOS	r.					
1939	108,709	563	291,067	3,805	35,016	19,994	459,154			
1948	156,109	10,099	474,571	32,000	975,168	14,739	1,662,686			
1949	243,197	573	868,333	39,152	147,278	35,457	1,333,990			
1950	231,684	18,219	283,543	18,204	1,492,195	19,043	2,062,888			
1951	307,173	23,750	336,447	36,255	165,437	3,912	872,974			
1952 (a)	572,169	20,079	286,749	19,743	261,109	3,655	1,163,504			
1948-52 (a)	1,510,332	72,720	2,249,643	145,354	3,041,187	76,806	7,096,042			
		Esti	MATED LOS		ES.					
			(2.	· ) .	1	1	1			
1939	83,540	424	335,033	4.728	22,114	9,877	455,716			
1948	242,948	16,719	882,527	60,932	1,073,867	22,121	2,299,114			
1949	445,303	1,171	1,741,238	80,300	280,056	63,468	2,611,536			
1950	418,245	37,817	616,094	86,261	2,977,558	30,443	4,166,418			
1951	752,319	59,961	863,928	189,200	382,435	8,185	2,256,028			
1952 (a)	1,593,902	56,034	932,480	94,743	752,124	10,567	3,439,850			
1948–52 (a)	3,452,717	171,702	5,036,267	511,436	5,466,040	134,784	14,772,946			

(a) See NOTE on page 125.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII. (i)). For the year 1952 these disputes represented 75 per cent. of the annual total.

During the five years 1948 to 1952, working days lost through dislocations of work involving employees in coal-mining numbered 2,249,643, representing 32 per cent. of the total loss of working days for the period. The majority of these disputes occurred in New South Wales. In making comparisons regarding the number and magnitude of disputes in this particular class it should be noted that the number of workers engaged in the coal-mining industry is very much larger in New South Wales than in any other State.

(ii) States and Territories.—The number of industrial disputes in each State and Territory during the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages

are given in the following table:-

Industrial Disputes: States and Territories.

			Establish-	Work	people Inv	olved.	Working	Estimated
State or Territory.	Year.	Number.		Directly.	In- directly.	Total.	Days Lost.	Loss in Wages.
New South Wales	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952 <i>b</i>	386 739 1,030 1,052 1,316	460 3,428 7,365 5,414 4,433	139,301 197,367 289,269 279,823 333,990	9,230 3,526 22,498 23,738 13,106	148,531 200,893 311,767 303,561 347,096	410,183 1,005,285 639,305 682,418 763,860	£ 419,330 1,981,769 1,333,938 1,803,947 2,279,619
Victoria {	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952 <i>b</i>	10 20 33 41 33	10 193 1,142 220 1,441	1,989 22,018 59,161 27,219 60,753	180  14,826 	2,169 22,018 73,987 27,219 61,920	27,313 60,112 1,208,365 42,210 116,339	19.946 115,883 2,395,691 104,038 339,109
Queensland	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952b	5 38 147 191 195	6 234 285 751 571	373 26,184 24,157 51,685 39,298	87 2,483 4,412 1,624	375 26,271 26,640 56,097 40,922	1,87e 183,333 74,007 96,307 76,286	1,753 351,985 142,721 218,454 235,914
South Australia	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952 <i>b</i>	2 18 29 27 32	2 45 251 188 494	170 5,845 13,766 12,713 24,408	5 147 402 21 1,623	175 5,992 14,168 12,734 26,031	1,880 28,318 126,538 34,057 64,738	1,416 51,541 264,704 88,286 175,043
Western Australia	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	7 16 15 10 21	7 33 31 40 271	1,108 5,564 1,952 4,179 19,154	145 97 	1,253 5,661 1,952 4,179 19,156	14,100 26,287 5,728 5,101 127,826	9,578 52,421 11,491 12,394 369,658
Tasmania	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	4 15 19 21 26	. 4 48 45 56 157	53 3,503 3,089 4,644 10,298	   34	53 3,503 3,100 4,644 10,332	166 29,316 8,447 10,401 14,143	93 55,319 16,296 23,949 39,640
Northern Territory	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	2 2 1 1 3	16 2 1 1 3	234 200 43 48 257	40	274 200 43 48 257	3,642 1,261 430 60 272	3,600 2,522 1,450 120 762
Aust. Cap. Territory	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	 I 2 I I	 I 2 6 I	39 44 110 20		39 44 110 20	78 68 2,420 40	 96 127 4,840
Australia	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	416 849 1,276 1,344 1,627	505 3,984 9,122 6,676 7,371	143,228 260,720 391,481 380,421 488,178	40,220 28,171	152,830 264,577 431,701 408,592 505,734	459,154 1,333,990 2,062,888 872,974 1,163,504	4,166,418 2,256,028

<sup>(</sup>a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. (b) See Note on page 125.

<sup>4.</sup> Duration of Industrial Disputes.—(i) General.—The duration of each industrial dispute involving a loss of work, i.e., the time between the cessation and resumption of work, has been calculated in working days, exclusive of

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, except where the establishment involved carries on a continuous process (e.g., Metal Smelting and Cement Manufacture). The following limitations of time have been adopted:—(a) One day and less; (b) two days and more than one day; (c) three days and more than two days; (d) over three days and under one week; (e) one week and under two weeks; (f) two weeks and under four weeks; (g) four weeks and under eight weeks; and (h) eight weeks and over.

(ii) Australia—1939 and 1949 to 1952.—Particulars of industrial disputes, according to limits of duration, for Australia for the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952 are given in the following table:—

Duration of Industrial Disputes: Australia.

			Work	people Inve	olved.	Walde	West of the second
Limits of Duration.	Year.	Num- ber.	Directly.	Indirectly.	'Total.	Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
r day and less	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	230 601 809 875 1,064	96,184 176,513 248,359 246,878 345,076	1,191 1,960 18,642 14,944 4,369	97,375 178,473 267,001 261,822 349,445	97,375 169,816 254,054 216,478 330,392	\$ 106,970 333,855 508,392 536,898 966,835
$_2$ days and more than 1 day $\hdots$	1939	60	16,398	872	17,270	34,540	<b>35,648</b>
	1949	104	24,411	450	24,861	49,150	96,307
	1950	189	46,627	949	47,576	71,886	146,074
	1951	174	56,476	1,079	57,555	97,285	229,894
	1952	242	78,735	1,665	80,400	125,510	393,737
3 days and more than 2 days $\left\{\right.$	1939	38	10,103	1,374	11,477	34.43 <sup>1</sup>	36,427
	1949	37	8,464	19	8,483	22,940	44,765
	1950	82	15,202	8,324	23,526	65,492	129,989
	1951	88	17,526	3,005	20,531	55,527	139,379
	1952	100	20,289	377	20,666	55,177	168,541
Over 3 days and less than I week	1939	34	7,540	404	7,944	<b>36,387</b>	37,056
	1949	26	12,877	230	13,107	49,303	99,153
	1950	58	21,726	383	22,109	72,471	147,726
	1951	46	9,888	1,503	11,391	44,272	115,436
	1952	54	13,124	1,855	14,979	53,470	178,187
x week and less than 2 weeks $\dots \Bigg\{$	1939	34	6,864	2,169	9,033	75,3 <sup>2</sup> 3	67,736
	1949	43	9,770	179	9,949	58,163	99,422
	1950	73	12,175	2,133	14,308	82,215	222,061
	1951	86	28,557	2,254	30,811	198,447	481,907
	1952	86	16,979	3,455	20,434	124,761	357,836.
$_{2}$ weeks and less than $_{4}$ weeks $\left\{ \right.$	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	10 16 45 46 46	5,002 5,046 19,756 11,915 6,362	3.224 519 1,449 5,310 3,844	8,226 5,565 21,205 17,225 10,206	75,949 177,291 139,909	116,882 140,017 342,669 459,056 329,810
$_4$ weeks and less than 8 weeks $\; \left\{ \right.$	1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	6 16 13 19	518 17,911 5,475 7,802 2,290	307 347 981 69 1,637	925 18,258 6,456 7,871 3,927	25,463 598,110 119,375 49,460 91,805	15,908 1,175,977 256,036 118,850 290,768
8 weeks and over $\dots$	1939	4	519	61	580	39,453	39,089
	1949	6	5,728	153	5,881	310,559	622,040
	1950	7	22,161	7,359	29,520	1,220,104	2,413,471
	1951	10	1,379	7	1,386	71,596	174,608
	1952	17	5,323	354	5,677	258,914	754,136
Total	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1949	849	260,720	3,857	264,577	1,333,990	2,611,536
	1950	1,276	391,481	40,220	431,701	2.062,888	4,166,418
	1951	1,344	380,421	28,171	408,592	872,974	2,256,028
	1952	1,627	488,178	17,556	505,734	b1,163,504	3,439,850

<sup>(</sup>a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.

(b) See Note on page 125.

<sup>3666.—6</sup> 

5. Causes of Industrial Disputes.—(i) General.—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 39, 1949, the causes of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. As from 1950, however, a new classification has been introduced and stoppages have been analysed in three separate groups, "Coal-mining", "Stevedoring" and "Other Industries". This segregation has been made because in the two firstmentioned industries the pattern of the disputes differs significantly from that in other industries.

Under the new classification, causes are grouped under four main headings:—(I) Wages, Hours and Leave; (2) Physical Working Conditions and Questions of Managerial Policy; (3) Trade Unionism; (4) Other Causes. The first group is restricted to disputes involving general principles relating to wages, hours and leave, minor questions regarding the claims to pay or leave by individual employees being included under managerial policy. The second group comprises disputes regarding physical working conditions and general questions of managerial policy, namely, those arising from disciplinary action, the promotion of employees, the employment of particular individuals, personal disagreements between employees and supervisory staff and disputes arising from the computations of wages, leave, etc., in individual cases. The third group, Trade Unionism, includes only stoppages against employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes. and sympathy stoppages in support of employees in another industry. The last group comprises disputes by way of protest against situations not arising from the usual relationship of employer and employee, e.g., political matters, and cases (mainly occurring in the coal-mining industry) where the cause of the stoppage is not officially made known to the management.

As the items included under these headings differ somewhat from those included under the similar headings used for classifying causes of disputes in years prior to 1950 the figures for 1950, 1951 and 1952 are not strictly

comparable with those for earlier years.

(ii) Causes of Disputes, Australia.—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes according to causes for the years 1913, 1939 and 1947 to 1952.

Causes of Industrial Disputes: Australia.

				Disputos	· Ausua	LT CD+		
Cause of Dispute.	1913.	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950. (a)	1951. (a)	1952. (a)
			NUMBER (	OF DISPUTE	ES.		1 1	
Wages, Hours and Leave Physical Working Conditions and	87	96	225	196	187	128	186	161
Managerial Policy Trade Unionism Other	95 18 8	197 50 73	358 71 328	541 76 328	328 84 250	894 114 140	803 159 196	967 204 295
Total	208	416	982	1,141	849	1,276	1,344	1,627
		1	Workpeopl	LE INVOLV	ED.			
Wages, Hours and Leave Physical Working Conditions and	18,635	29,290	86,183	81,430	67,821	104,075	117,409	201,274
Managerial Policy Trade Unionism Other	22,155 7,735 1,758	56,783 18,651 48,106	90,688 47,055 103,211	110,945 26,251 98,523	48,962 14,234 133,560	173,705 15,651 138,270	151,655 27,684 111,844	183,123 51,819 69,518
Total	50,283	152,830	327,137	317,149	264,577	431,701	408,592	505,734

<sup>(</sup>a) See note on following page.

#### Causes of Industrial Disputes: Australia—continued.

Cause of Dispute.	1913.	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950. (a)	1951. (a)	1952. (a)
			Working	DAYS LOS	ST.			
Wages, Hours and Leave Physical Working Conditions and	205,575	128,525	633,642	1,015,041	1,019,757	1,448,462	338,026	545,017
Conditions and Managerial Policy Frade Unionism	265,285 147,456 5,212	189,510 54,749 86,370	306,626 129,469 268,991	360,611 144,377 142,657	118,755 37,154 158,324	443,493 37,580 133,353	359,383 67,280 108,285	93,133
Total	623,528	459,154	1,338,728	1,662,686	1,333,990	2,062,888	872,974	1,163,50

<sup>(</sup>a) Owing to the use of a new classification, figures for 1950, 1951 and 1952 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

The following table shows the causes of industrial disputes during 1952 in three broad groups of industries:—(i) Coal-mining, (ii) Stevedoring, (iii) Other Industries.

#### Causes of Industrial Disputes: Australia, 1952.

Causes of	f Industrial Disp	utes: Australia	a, 1952.	
Cause of Dispute.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
	NUMBER OF	DISPUTES.		
9				
Wages, Hours and Leave . Physical Working Condition		20	71	161
and Managerial Policy .	. 747	84	136	967
Trade Unionism		13	30	204
Other	. 241	37	17	295
Total	. 1,219	154	254	1,627
	Workpeople	Involved.		
Wages, Hours and Leave . Physical Working Condition	. 24,220	48,597	128,457	201,274
1 75 1 1 TO 11	. 83,315	58,151	41,657	183,123
m 1 TT : :	. 42,405	3,032	6,382	51,819
0.1	. 43,126	19,638	6,754	69,518
Total	. 193,066	129,418	183,250	505,734
	Working D	AYS LOST.	'	
Wages, Hours and Leave . Physical Working Condition	. 27,899	38,212	478,906	545,017
- 35 1 T 1	. 147,215	94,813	202,258	444,286
m 1 TT 1 1	63,092	3,464	26,577	93,133
0.1	. 48,543	19,783	12,742	81,068
Total	. 286,749	156,272	720,483	1,163,504
				1

- 6. **Results of Industrial Disputes.**—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, tables were included showing analyses of the results of industrial disputes over a period of years. Under a new method of collection of the basic data, the information on which these analyses were based is no longer available for the majority of disputes and the compilation has therefore been discontinued.
- 7. **Methods of Settlement.**—(i) General.—In previous issues of the Labour Report the methods of settlement of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. Commencing with this issue a new classification has been introduced, and stoppages in "coal-mining", "stevedoring" and "other industries" have been analysed separately, as the pattern of disputes differs significantly in these three groupings.

The new classification is actually a refinement of the previous classification, four of the six headings having been subdivided. Thus the figures for recent years in the first table are still comparable with those for earlier years based on the previous classification.

The previous classification of methods of settlement was—

(i) By negotiation between the parties, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation.

(ii) Under the provisions of State industrial legislation.

(iii) Under the provisions of Commonwealth industrial legislation.

(iv) By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out.

(v) By closing down establishment permanently.

(vi) By other methods.

The new classification is—

- (I) Negotiation.—By private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Part of (i) above.)
- (2) Mediation.—By the arbitration or mediation of persons whose intervention or assistance is not based on State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Balance of (i) above.)
- (3) State Legislation-
  - (a) Under State Conciliation and Arbitration or Wages Board Legislation—By intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or wages board legislation, or by reference to such authorities or by compulsory or voluntary conference. (Part of (ii) above.)

(b) Under Other State Legislation—By intervention, assistance or advice of State Government officials or

inspectors. (Balance of (ii) above.)

(4) Commonwealth and Joint Commonwealth-State Legislation:

(a) By compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance of, or by reference to, the industrial tribunals created by or constituted under the following Acts. (Part of (iii) above)—

(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

(ii) Coal Industry Acts.

(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act.

- (iv) Other Acts (Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act; Maritime Industry Act; and Public Service Arbitration Act).
- (b) By intervention, assistance or advice of Commonwealth Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (iii) above.)
- (5) By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out. (Formerly (iv) above.)
- (6) By closing down establishment permanently. (Formerly (v) above.)
- (7) By resumption without negotiation. (Part of (vi) above.)
- (8) By other methods. (Balance of (vi) above.)

As the tables refer only to industrial disputes involving stoppages of work, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of authorities operating under State and Commonwealth legislation.

(ii) Australia, 1913, 1939 and 1947 to 1952.—Information for Australia for the years specified is given hereunder:—

Methods of	Sattlement	of	Industrial	Disputes:	Australia.(a)

Method of Settlement.	1913.	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950. (b)	1951. (b)	1952.
		Numi	BER OF D	ISPUTES.				
By Private Negotiation.	136	294	355	360	296	346	271	368
Under State Industrial Legislation	41	7	103	128	50	46	48	49
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation By Filling Places of Work-	4	6	36	II	54	141	175	169
people on Strike or Locked out	13	I	I	I				
By Closing down Establishment permanently By other methods	1 13	2 106	487	638	448	739	846	1,03
Total	208	416	982	1,138	848	1,272	1,341	1,62
		Wo	RKPEOPLE	INVOLVE	D.			
By Private Negotiation.	26,529	82,684	68,031	91,654	44,878	62,463	45,691	48,28
Under State Industrial Legislation	19,279	5,354	71,772	47,668	27,003	5,722	21,786	12,38
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation By Filling Places of Work-	659	3,268	23,497	19,573	38,187	77,036	50,442	42,95
people on Strike or Locked out By Closing down Estab-	.658	20	25	18				
lishment permanently By other methods	170 2,988	178 61,326	163,812	157,617	154,326	286,103	29 290,373	400,18
Total	50,283	152,830	327,137	316,530	264,394	431,324	408,321	504,16

For notes see following page.

#### Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes: Australia(a)—continued.

Method of Settlement.	1913.	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950. (b)	1951. (b)	1952.
		W	ORKING D	AYS LOST.				
By Private Negotiation Under State Industrial	120,735	298,652	204,906	281,979	246,519	395,967	126,792	271,665
Legislation Under Commonwealth	409,640	39,013	394,369	350,150	146,000	30,974	133,904	98,938
Industrial Legislation By Filling Places of Work- people on Strike or	2,105	46,450	441,317	790,303	764,983	1,256,511	200,909	193,994
Locked out  By Closing down Estab-	14,139	20	50	36				
lishment permanently By other methods	20,400 56,509	3,892 71,127		212,333	176,122	375,139	203 390,717	6,001 585,044
Total	623,528	459,154	1,338,728	1,634,801	1,333,624	2,058,591	852,525	1,155,642

<sup>(</sup>a) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this Section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year. (b) Revised.

Changes in the incidence of industrial disputes in the coal-mining and stevedoring industries are reflected in the above series as variations in the relative numbers of disputes settled under different headings. An additional table has therefore been prepared to show separately the figures for these two industries and those for all other industries combined for the years 1951 and 1952.

# Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes: Australia.(a) Number of

Workpeople

Method of Settlement.	Disp			lved.	Lost.	
	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.
	COAL	-MINING.				
a. By Private Negotiation b. By Mediation not based on Legis-	188	280	24,345	24,863	42,157	42,558
lation	2		80		128	
(a) Under State Conciliation, &c., Legislation		I		162		324
vernment Officials Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State Legislation— (a) Industrial Tribunals under—	6	7	819	1,037	2,761	1,381
(ii) Coal Industry Acts (b) By Reference to Commonwealth Government Offi-	64	92	12,175	. 13,372	42,952	43,492
cials	4	2	530	194	530	633
permanently By Resumption without Negotia-	I		29		203	
tion	648	836 I	135,337	153,398 40	248,144	198,321
Total	913	1,219	173,315	193,066	336,875	286,749

<sup>(</sup>a) See note on following page.

## Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes: Australia (a) -- continued.

Method of Settlement.		ber of utes.	Work Invo	people lved.		ng Days ost.
	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.
	STEV	EDORING.				
By Private Negotiation Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State Legislation— (a) Industrial Tribunals under—	3	2	282	333	343	86
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act (iii) Stevedoring Industry		2		600		60
(b) By Reference to Commonwealth Government Offi-	. 9	10	13,473	8,418	28,678	18,43
cials	34	20	9,022	11,951	16,694	19,10
tion By other methods	150	120	100.600	108,116	87,863	117.27
Total	196	154	123,377	129,418	133,578	156,27
	OTHER	INDUSTRIES	S.			
. By Private Negotiation	77	86	20,917	23,093	84,030	228,24
lation	I		67		134	
(a) Under State Conciliation, &c., Legislation (b) By Reference to State Govern-	42	41	20,967	11,186	131,143	97,23
(b) By Reference to State Govern- ment Officials  Commonwealth and Common- wealth-State Legislation—  (a) Industrial Tribunals under—  (i) Conciliation and Arbi-	.,					
tration Act		42 I	15,242	8,395	112,055	111,71
permanently		I		353		6,00
tion By other methods	48	79	54,436	138,630	54,710	269.40
Total	232	250	111,629	181,677	382,072	712,62
,	ALL IND	USTRIES.				
. By Private Negotiation	268	368	45,544	48,289	126,530	271,66
By Mediation not based on Legislation	3		147		262	
(a) Under State Conciliation, &c., Legislation (b) By Reference to State Govern-	42	42	20,967	11,348	131,143	97,55
ment Officials Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State Legislation— (a) Industrial Tribunals under— (i) Conciliation and Arbi-	6	7	819	1,037	2,761	1,38
tration Act (ii) Coal Industry Acts	64 64	44 92	15,242	8,995 13,372	112,055 42,952	43,49
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act (iv) Under other Acts (b) By Reference to Common-	9	10	13,473	8,418	28,678	18,43
wealth Government Officials	38	22	9,552	12,145	17,224	19,73
By Closing down Establishment permanently By Resumption without Negotia-	· I	I	29	353	203	6,00
By Resumption without Negotia- tion  By other methods	846	1,035	290,373	400,144	390,717	585,00
Total	1,341	1,623	408,321	504,161	852,525	1,155,6

<sup>(</sup>a) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this Section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

#### § 7. Industrial Accidents.

- I. General.—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 39, 1950, tables were published showing details of all industrial accidents. These were compiled from returns received from the Chief Inspectors of Factories, the Chief Inspectors of Machinery, the Boiler, Lift and Scaffolding Inspectors, and the Departments of Mines in the several States. Inquiries, however, revealed that, except in the case of mining accidents, the usefulness of these statistics was seriously impaired by lack of definition and coverage from State to State and it was decided to publish only the statistics of mining accidents until these defects could be remedied.
- 2. Mining Accidents.—(i) Sources of Information.—Information regarding mining accidents is obtained from the Departments of Mines in the respective States. Accidents occurring in crushing and ore-dressing works on mine sites are included in the figures. Similar tables for years prior to 1951 included accidents in all smelting and metallurgical works. Quarries, brick and clay pits, etc., have also been excluded from the following tables. These are not, therefore, directly comparable with those appearing in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.
- (ii) Classification.—The following table gives particulars of mining accidents reported to the Mines Departments in each State in 1952.

Mining Accidents: Classification according to Cause-1952.(a)

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
A.	-Fatal	Accide	nts.			,	
METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
I. Below Ground— Accidents caused by Explosives					2 4		3 5 2 3
2. Above Ground—(b) Accidents caused by machinery in motion Other Accidents	2				I 2		4 3
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines							
COAL MINES.  1. Below Ground—     Accidents caused by Mine Explosions     (Fire Damp, etc.)     Accidents caused by Explosives     (Dynamite, etc.)     Accidents caused by Falls of Earth     Other Accidents	 1 7 1				 I I		1 9 3
Abeve Ground—     Accidents caused by machinery in motion     Other Accidents	2 I						2 2
Total	15		6		15	I	37

See notes on following page.

# Mining Accidents: Classification according to Cause—1952. (a)—continued.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
B.—Non-fatal Accide	ents Inc	apacitat	ting for	over 1	4 days.		
METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
I. Below Ground— Accidents caused by Explosives , , , Falls of Ground , , , Falling down			5		6 41	2	8 152
Other Accidents  2. Above Ground— (b)	99		67		17 326	2 4	32 499
Accidents caused by machinery in motion Other Accidents  3. Accidents in Batterles, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines	9 36 10		10 38 76	3 10	16 84	I I	39 169
COAL MINES.  1. Below Ground—							
(Dynamite, etc.) Accidents caused by Falls of Earth Other Accidents  2. Above Ground—	16 18 41	 3 6	1 50 160		 9 81	 2 3	17 82 291
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	13	•,•	1 35	4 8	2 II		9 68
Total	356	12	446	29	603	21	1,467

(a) The figures relating to mining accidents may not in all cases correspond exactly with those published by the State Mines Departments, due to some lack of uniformity regarding the definition of a non-fatal accident.

(b) Excludes quarries, brick and clay pits, etc.

During the year 1952, 26 fatal mining accidents were reported as having occurred below ground in Australia as compared with 11 above ground. Fatal accidents in metalliferous mines in 1952 numbered 20 as against 17 in coal-mines. The number of non-fatal mining accidents below ground was 1,081 and above ground 386.

# § 8. Workers' Compensation Legislation.

In the following pages a summary is presented of the principal provisions of Workers' Compensation Acts in force in Australia as at 30th June, 1953.

# CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN

State.	Acts in Force.	Judicial Administration.
New South Wales	Workers' Compensation Act, 1926-1951	Workers' Compensation Commission (Judges, District Court status). In practice, Judge sits alone; four Courts sit at one time
Victoria	Workers' Compensation Act, 1953	County Court Judge (sitting with workers and employers' representa- tives as Workers' Compensation Board)
Queensland	Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1952	Special Insurance Commissioner (no legal qualifications required by Statute)
South Australia	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1932–1951	Special Magistrates
Western Australia	Workers' Compensation Act, 1912—	Workers' Compensation Board of three members; Chairman, a legal practitioner, and a nominee of (a) employers' organization and (b) employees' organization
Tasmania	Workers' Compensation Act, 1927–1953	Supreme Court Judges (sitting alone)
Commonwealth of Australia	Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act, 1930–1951	One Commissioner (Secretary to the Treasury), with power of delegation
Australian Capital Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1951-1952	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbi- trator. Questions of law may be referred to the Court of Petty Ses- sions
Northern Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1949-1952	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbi- trator, or they may be settled by a Local Court

# Australia (as at 30th June, 1953).

Appeals.	Maximum Wages of "Workers" Compensated.	Waiting Period.	Medical, Surgical and Hospital Expenses.
On the question of law only to Supreme Court, High Court and Privy Council	£1,250 excluding over- time	Nil	£150 medical and surgical £150 hospital; £25 am bulance; unless Commis sion directs that employe shall be liable for a furthe specified sum
On question of law upon case stated for opinion of Full Court of the Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£2,000, excluding overtime	Nil	Unlimited medical, hospital nursing and ambulance ser vice and costs of burial
Any person claiming compensation who objects to the ruling thereon of the Insurance Commissioner may require the matter to be heard and determined by an Industrial Magistrate. Either party to the proceedings may appeal from his decision. Such appeal shall be made to the Full Bench of the Industrial Court. Unless the Court orders that additional evidence shall be taken, the appeal which shall be by way of rehearing shall be heard and determined upon the evidence and proceedings before the Industrial Magistrate concerned	Unlimited	Nil	£50 hospital; £50 medical in death where no depend- dants, medical expenses and burial, maximum £100
Questions of law and fact to Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£1,252 (overtime allowances excluded)	r day, Nil for pay- ment of medical expenses	£5 for transport; £35 for doctor's fees; £30 for hos pital; £5 for registered nurse; maximum of all, £75
Jurisdiction exclusive; decisions final on facts. Board may state a case for Full Court of Supreme Court on matters of law	£1,250	Nil	£100 medical, £150 hospital, £40 funeral
To Full Court by way of rehearing, High Court, Privy Council	£1,300 or £25 p.w	Nil	Not exceeding £75 in the aggregate
Rehearing by Local, County or Dis- trict Court, then Appeal to Su- preme Court on questions of law, High Court, Privy Council	No limitation on remuneration. Applicable only to Commonwealth Government employees, and of such Commonwealth authorities as are prescribed	Nil	£150 medical, surgical or hospital, or over in exceptional circumstances if Commissioner considers circumstances warrant. £50 funeral expenses
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of the Court of Petty Sessions	£1,250, excluding overtime, bonuses and special allow- ances	Nil	Not exceeding £150 unless exceptional circumstances warrant payment of larger sum
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of a Local Court	£1,250 per annum, exclusive of pay- ments for overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil	Not exceeding £150 for medical, surgical or hospital treatment or ambulance service, except in special circumstances. This is additional to other compensation

# Conspectus of Workers' Compensation Laws in

		Workers' Compensation Payments
State.	Percentage of Average Weekly Earnings. (a.w.e.).	Maximum.
New South Wales	75 per cent	£5 15s. with no dependants, with dependants £9 or a.w.e., whichever is lower
Victoria		Adult £8 16s. with no dependants (with dependants £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower). Minor £6 8s. without dependants (with dependants £11 4s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower)
Queensland	75 per cent	£8 os. adjustable according to movements of basic wage (with dependants, a.w.e.)
South Australia	75 per cent	Married man with dependent wife or child under 16 years £11 or a.w.e., whichever is lower. Any other workman, £8
Western Australia	66§ per cent. of a.w.e. or 66§ per cent. of wages per week immediately preceding accident	£8 or a.w.e. whichever is the lesser, if no dependants; £10, or a.w.e., including dependants, allowances, whichever is the lesser, if worker has dependants
Tasmania		£6 plus dependants' allowances or 75 per cent, of a.w.e. whichever is lower
Commonwealth of Australia		£6 (£4 ros. if a minor not receiving adult rate of pay) plus allowances for dependants; or a sum equal to the pay of the workman at the time of the injury or of the rate of pay of a workman of the same class as subsequently varied by competent authority or following upon a variation in the cost of living; whichever is the less. In all cases plus the cost of medical treatment
Australian Capital Territory		Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)
Northern Territory		Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)

# Australia (as at 30th June, 1953)—continued.

in Case of Total Disablement.

Minimum.	In respect of Dependants.	Total Liability.
adult male, £4 ros., adults whose a.w.e. are less than £6, roo per cent. of a.w.e. but not exceeding £4 ros., minors, roo per cent. of a.w.e., but not exceeding £2	£2 for wife or adult dependant, plus 158. per child (including children to whom worker stands in loco parentis), subject to prescribed maximum	No limit
Nil	£2 8s. for wife or relative caring for his children if wife or rela- tive is wholly or mainly depend- ent upon him, plus 16s. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800 except in cases of (a) permanent and total disablement, or (b) permanent and partial disablement of major degree
22 ios., or ioo per cent. of a.w.e., not less than £1 ios. in the case of Commonwealth Age and In- valid Pensioners	£1 10s. per week for wife, 10s. per week each child and stepchild under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£1,750
£3, except for workman under 21 with no dependants, where minimum payment is a.w.e.	£1 10s. for dependent wife and 10s. each child under 16 years of age	£1,750
£3, or 100 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower	£1 10s. for dependent wife, 10s. each dependent child under 16 years of age	£1,750
Nil	£1 108, for wife or adult depend- ant, plus 158, per child under 16 years of age, subject to pre- scribed maximum	£1,750
Same as maximum	£1158. (a) for wife; or (b) female dependent over 16 years of age, who is either caring for child under 16 years of age and dependent on employee or a member of employee's family, plus 188. per child. subject to maximum of weekly pay at date of injury	£1,750. except in total and permanent disablement when liability unlimited
Same as maximum	£1 15s. for wife or a female (over 16 years of age) wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman, who is a member of his family or caring for a child under 16 years of age wholly or mainly dependent on the workman, plus 15s. for each child under 16 years of age who is wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman that the workman is the workman in the workman in the workman in the workman is the workman in the workman in the workman in the workman in the workman is the workman in the	the cost of medical treatment
Nil	Same as Australian Capital Territory (above)	£1,750, excluding cost of medical surgical and hospital treatment and ambulance service. This does not limit compensation in case of death or total and per- ment incapacity

## Conspectus of Workers' Compensation Laws in

	Death Payments.							
State.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Special Provision for Children.					
New South Wales	Four years' earnings: £2,000.  Deduction of lump sum or weekly payments made before death from death benefit is not permitted	£800	£75 additional for each dependent child un- der 16 years of age					
Victoria	£2,240, plus £80 for each depend- dent child (excluding pay- ments for total incapacity, if any, paid prior to death)	Nil	Yes					
Queensland	£1,500, plus £50 each child and step-child under 16 years of age (total dependants); in case of minors dependency is presumed and minimum of £200 is payable to parents of deceased worker	£1,500 total depend- ants; £250 partial dependants; £200 death of worker under 21 years of age	£50 each for child or step-child					
South Australia	Four years' earnings, maximum £1,500, plus £50 for each dependent child	£500, plus £50 for each dependent child	£50 for each dependent					
Western Australia	£1,500, plus £50 for each dependent child under 16 years of age	£500 for a wholly dependent widow, mother, child or stepchild under 16 years of age only, plus £50 for each dependent child	£50 for each dependant child or step-child under 16 years of age not being an ex- nuptial child					
Tasmania	£1,750, plus £50 for each dependent child under 16 years of age	Nil	Yes					
Commonwealth of Australia	£1,500, plus £75 for each dependent child	·As in previous column	£75 additional for each totally or mainly de- pendent child under 16 years of age					
Australian Capital Territory	£1,500 plus £75 for each dependent child under 16 years of age and plus the cost of medical treatment. Any amount, by way of weekly payments, paid or payable before the death of the workman in respect of his total or partial incapacity for work shall be disregarded	As in previous column	£75 for each dependent child under 16 years of age					
Northern Territory	£1,500, plus £75 for each de- pendent child under 16 years of age	Nil	£75 for each dependent child under 16 years of age					

# AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1953)—continued.

Lump Sum for Scheduled Injuries.					Provision re Aged and Injured Workers.			and	Insurance.		
claime withou payab	wo or med in respect to any lire. No degree years.	ect of the nit on to leduction	same accordance and amou	ident	No	• •			Compulsory and competitive		
accou	xcluding nt of per injury)	paymer iod of i	nts made	e on ulting	No				Compulsory and competitive		
Yes					m	except inimum	t provision disable	on for ement	Compulsory with State Govern- ment Insurance Office		
Yes					No				Compulsory and competitive		
Yes					No				Compulsory and competitive		
Yes					No	* *			Compulsory and competitive		
Yes			• •	**	No						
deduc	Such pay etion in rously paid ent	respect of	of any ar	nount	No	• •	• •		Compulsory (unless exempted by the Minister) and com- petitive		
							,				
Yes. T	This is in ly paymen	additionts	on to pro	evious	No				Compulsory (unless exempted by the Administrator) and competitive		

# CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN

State.	Government Insurance Office.	Compensation payable in respect of injuries received whilst travelling to and from work.
New South Wales	Yes, competitive	Same as for injury arising out of or in course of employment
Victoria	Yes, competitive	Yes
Queensland	Yes, monopoly	The same as provided for other injuries
South Australia	No, except for employees of South Australian Government	Nil
Western Australia	Yes. Competitive, except in mining operations	Nil
Tasmania	Yes, competitive	Yes, if travelling to a trade, technical or other training school
	_	
Commonwealth of Australia		Yes
Australian Capital Territory	No	Yes
Northern Territory	No	Yes

# Australia (as at 30th June, 1953)—continued.

#### Dusts.

Sili	cosis.	Other Dusts.					
Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.	Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.				
Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries				
As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries				
£4 10S	Compensation is payable to a sufferer during his lifetime. On death weekly payments to widow continue until total of £1,500 paid. Minimum aggregate payment to widow, £300; maximum weekly payment to widow, £3 ros.	Same as provided for other injuries	Same as provided for other injuries				
Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Scheme As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injury	Only as proclaimed under Second Schedule As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries				
As in case of other injuries	£1,750	£8, as in case of other injuries	£1,750				
Workers' (Occupational Diseases) Relief Fund Act 1928-1949 Unmarried, £3; married, £5; 7s. 6d. each child under 16 years	£1,500	Unmarried, £3; married, £5; 78. 6d. each child under 16 years	£1,500				
As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries				
As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries				
As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries	As in case of other injuries				

# CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia.

I. General.—In Labour Report No. 2 an outline was given of the method adopted to ascertain the number of members of labour organizations in Australia, and tabulated results up to the end of 1912 were included. From the beginning of 1913 quarterly returns were obtained from a considerable number of trade unions, both as to membership and unemployment, and these were supplemented at the end of each year by special inquiries as to the membership of those unions which, owing to the nature of the callings and industries covered, were unable to furnish quarterly unemployment returns. The following pages show the general situation in regard to the trades union movement in Australia at present, and its development since 1939. The affairs of single unions are not disclosed in the published results and this has assisted in securing complete information. The Bureau is greatly indebted to the secretaries of trade unions for their cordial co-operation in supplying information.

In this chapter figures for the years 1949 to 1952 are compared with 1939. Particulars for earlier years will be found in preceding issues of the

Labour Report.

2. Trade Unions—Number and Membership, 1939 and 1949 to 1952.— The following table gives particulars of the number of separate unions and the number of members at the end of the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952:—

Trade Unions: Number and Membership.

		Т	rade U	nions: N	umber a	and Mem	bership	•		
Year	r.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. Terr.	A.C.T.	Aust.
		1	]	NUMBER O	F SEPARA	TE UNIONS	j.	-		
1939 1949 1950 1951		200 212 222 225 223	149 150 152 156 159	114 125 128 128 129	117 138 138 137 139	141 152 156 152 151	79 97 98 101 98	14 17 15	15 21 28 29 31	(a) 380 (a) 349 (a) 360 (a) 359 (a) 360
				NUMB	ER OF ME	MBERS.				
1939 1949 1950 1951		358,391 606,139 642,145 678,338 649,163	216,803 382,503 406,317 433,407 416,349	180,653 259,339 262,586 277,037 274,908	67,282 127,292 137,504 140,067 137,495	67,833 97,706 103,582 105,507 105,462	22,062 40,700 45,044 47,4 <sup>1</sup> 3 46,948	761 2,860 2,438 2,764 2,340	4,375 5,728 5,738	915,470 1,520,91 1,605,34 1,690,27 1,637,54
			PERCEN	TAGE IN	CREASE IN	N MEMBER	SHIP.(b)			
1939 1949 1950 1951		3·3 1.6 5·9 5.6 -4·3	0.8 3.1 6.2 6.7 -3.9	6.5 8.7 1.3 5.5 -0.8	8.7 6.9 8.0 1.9 -1.8	0.1 11.2 6.0 1.9	4.8 10.7 10.7 5.3 -1.0	5.6 24.7 -14.8 13.4 -15.3	9.6 25.6 30.9 0.2 -15.0	3·4 5·2 5·6 5·3 -3.1

<sup>(</sup>a) Without interstate duplication. (See letterpress below.) (b) On preceding year. Note.—Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

The types of trade unions in Australia vary greatly, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or international. The schemes of organization of interstate or

federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes.

In the table just given, under the heading "Number of Separate Unions", a union with members in a State is counted as one union within that State. The figures by States do not add to the Australian total (shown in the last column) because a union represented in more than one State is included in the figure for each State in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

Because of the difficulties involved, the collection of statistics relating to the "Number of Branches" of trade unions appearing in issues of this publication prior to No. 39 has been discontinued.

3. Trade Unions—Industrial Groups, 1939 and 1949 to 1952.—The following table gives the number and membership of trade unions in Australia in industrial groups at the end of the years 1949 to 1952 compared with 1939.

Trade Unions: Industrial Groups, Australia.									
Industrial Group.	1939.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.				
Number (	F SEPARAT	E Unions.(a	)	1					
Manufacturing-				1	1				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	. 4	6	6	6					
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	22	16	16		6				
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc	35	33	35	. 15	15				
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc	12	6	6	35	35				
V. Books, Printing, etc.	8	6	6	6	6				
VI. Other Manufacturing	37	36	38		6				
VII. Building	28	25	26	37 26	37				
III. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	1.3	II	12		26				
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	29	26	26	12	12				
X. Other Land Transport	6	9		25	25				
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	21	15	9	9	9				
KII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	5		13	13	13				
III Domestic Hotels ata	18	4	4	4	3				
IIV. Miscellaneous—	10	14	14	14	14				
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	20	16							
(ii) Dublic Commiss			17	17	17				
(iii) Detail and Whelest	50	5.4	56	58	60				
14 ( 24 )	8	1 I	I 2	12	12				
Y - E									
(w) Other Mineelle	II	10	II	12	12				
	53	51	53	52	52				
Total	380	349	360	359	360				
Num	BER OF ME	MBERS.		,					
Manufacturing—		1	1	1	1				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27,990	20.760							
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	99,731	39,162	39,991	42,180	42,43				
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc	80,328	98,564	234,715	242,800	245,83				
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	68,847		98,029	104,605	93,8				
V. Books, Printing, etc.	22,303	123,039	127,559	131,873	100,0				
VI. Other Manufacturing		32,374	33,641	35,211	34,49				
II. Building	52,074 45,651	67,432	81,766	80,581	75,6				
III. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	48,812	100,225	112,050	134,198	115,83				
IV Deilmer and Transman Canala	105,938	45,688	47,812	48,646	49,99				
V Other Land Transport		134,513	140,086	139,405	144,7				
VI Chinning Whomf Tahaun at	19,488	50,600	56,276	58,918	60,11				
II Postorol Acrieultural etc	28,760	40,520	43,520	45.972	42,70				
III Domastia Hotela eta	40,276	52,687	56,735	59,911	59,05				
IV. Miscellaneous—	13,177	36,914	30,334	34,485	37,74				
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical					0,,,,				
(ii) Dublia Carrias	39,013	97,093	101,391	104,162	104,48				
filis Detail and Whalanda	89,848	165,762	174,097	183,541	187,25				
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	36,290	52,528	53,685	60,847	58,9				
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and					3.,93				
Labouring	46,552	62,761	70,635	75,926	72,85				
(v) Other Miscellaneous	50,392	94,100	103,022	107,010	111,58				
Total	ATE 15-	7 7	- 6						
Total	915,470	1,520,914	1,605,344	1,690,271	1,637,54				

(a) Without interstate duplication. See above.

4. Trade Unions-Numbers of Male and Female Members and Ratio to Wage and Salary Earners.—The following tables show the estimated percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who are members of trade unions. The data on which the numbers of wage and salary earners are based are described in Chapter IV. (page 110). As current estimates of wage and salary earners in employment do not include employees engaged in rural industry or females in private domestic service the percentages have been calculated on figures obtained by adding to the current estimate (at the end of each year) the numbers of employees in rural industry and female private domestic service recorded at the Census of June, 1947. For this reason, and also because the membership of trade unions includes some persons not in employment, the percentages shown in the tables must be regarded as approximations.

(i) States, 1952. The table below shows for each State the numbers of males, females and persons who are members of trade unions and the estimated percentages as described above. In interpreting these, it should be noted that certain employees such as those in professional occupations may not be eligible for membership of a specific union, while others may not reside in a locality covered by a union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. The percentages are not directly comparable with those

published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.

Trade Unions: Number of Male and Female Members, and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, States, December, 1952.

wage and s	mary ma	Illers, D	vaves, 20	, comport	200101		
Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
		MALES	,	`			
Number of Members of Unions Estimated ratio of Members to	547,656	337,767	219,939	117,910	88,558	40,253	1,354,248
Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	69	62	76	65	64	-60	67
		FEMALE	8.				
Number of Members of Unions Estimated ratio of Members to	106,384	78,582	54,969	19,585	16,904	6,695	283,294
Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	38	36	60	34	39	31	40
		PERSON	s.				
Number of Members of Unions Estimated ratio of Members to		416,349	274,908	1.3.7,495	105,462	46,948	1,637,542
Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	61	55	72	57	58	5.3	60
	C 11 1 m	*4	(L) T-	aludaa Ma	athorn To	mitory	

<sup>(</sup>a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Australia.—Similar particulars for Australia as at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952 are given in the following table.

Trade Unions: Number of Male and Female Members, and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, Australia.

Particulars.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
	M	ALES.			1	
Number of Members of Unions Estimated ratio of Members to Num-	778,336	1,172,676	1,226,818	1,301,868	1,368,694	1,354,248
ber of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	52	62	63	65	66	67

Trade Unions: Number of Male and Female Members, and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, Australia—continued.

Particulars.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
	FI	EMALES.				
Number of Members of Unions Estimated ratio of Members to Num-	137,134	283,132	294,096	303,476	321,577	283,294
ber of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	24	40	41	40	42	40
	PE	RSONS.				
Number of Members of Unions Estimated ratio of Members to Num-	915,470	1,455,808	1,520,914	1,605,344	1,690,271	1,637,54
ber of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	44	56	57	58	60	6

5. Trade Unions—Classification according to Number of Members, 1939 and 1949 to 1952.—The following table shows the number and membership of all trade unions in Australia at the end of the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952 inclusive, classified according to size. In this table interstate unions are counted once only:—

Trade Unions: Classification according to Number of Members, Australia.

Class	10,000 and over.	5,000 and under 10,000.	2,000 and under 5,000.	1,000 and under 2,000.	500 and under 1,000.	300 and under 500.	and under 300.	and under 200.	50 and under 100.	Under 50.	Total.
				Nu	BER OF	Unions.	•				
1939 1949 1950 1951	 27 37 38 40 39	14 21 24 22 23	41 38 43 44 43	43 41 46 45 46	52 46 50 49 46	28 33 27 31 32	30 24 19 18 22	52 38 43 40 37	41 29 26 26 26 32	52 42 44 44 40	380 349 360 3 <b>5</b> 9 360
					Мемвен	SHIP.					
1939 1949 1950 1951 1952	 568,624 1112560 1178056 1263564 1205007	157,892 171,658 156,866	134,204 117,007 132,585 143,937 138,839	59,283 60,706 62,996 64,632 65,805	36,776 39,816 35,493 35,417 33,652	10,578 15,687 10,458 12,274 13,176	7,483 8,492 4,876 4,648 5,615	7,225 5,178 5,905 5,504 4,863	2,655 2,225 1,975 2,017 2,416	1,351 1,342 1,412	915,47 1,520,91 1,605,34 1,690,27 1,637,54
			PROPORT	TION OF	COTAL M	EMBERSH	IP. (PER	CENT.)			
1939 1949 1950 19 <b>5</b> 1	 62.I 73.I 73.4 74.8 73.6	9.5 10.4 10.7 9.3 10.2	14.7 7.7 8.3 8.5 8.5	6.5 4.0 3.9 3.8 4.0	4.0 2.6 2.2 2.I 2.I	1.1 1.0 0.6 0.7 0.8	0.8 0.6 0.3 0.3	0.8 0.3 0.4 0.3 0.3	0.3 0.2 0.1 0.1	0.2 0.1 0.1 0.1	100. 100. 100. 100.

In the last part of the preceding table the percentage which the membership in each group bears to the total membership of all groups is given. The tendency towards closer organization is evidenced by the fact that although membership of trade unions has increased since 1912 by

278 per cent., the number of unions having less than 2,000 members has considerably decreased, namely, from 360 to 255. In 1952, 7.7 per cent. of trade union members belonged to unions having less than 2,000 members as compared with 13.7 per cent. in 1939 and 28.1 per cent. in 1912.

6. Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.—The following table gives particulars regarding number and membership of interstate or federated trade unions having branches in two or more States. The figures include interstate unions registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, as well as federated unions which are not so registered:—

Interstate or Federated Trade Unions: Number and Membership. (a)

Particulars.		Unions Operating in—									
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	Total.					
Number of Unions   1949 . 1950 . 1951 .	. 19 . 13 . 13 . 12	11 17 13 15	20 11 17 15 17	24 39 38 38 38	42 58 59 60 59	116 138 140 140					
Number of Members { 1949 . 1950 . 1951 .	30,888 32,473 41,369 36,437 34,878	33,319 44,089 41,000 47,636 46,061	120,664 65,219 121,180 93,109 121,121	209,369 437,374 395,012 442,507 420,240	361,884 774,440 832,918 882,229 827,331	756,124 1,353,595 1,431,479 1,501,918 1,449,631					

<sup>(</sup>a) Certair unions have, in addition to branches in the States, branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory.

The number of organizations operating in two or more States has increased from 72 in 1912 to 142 in 1952, and the percentage of the membership of such organizations on the total membership of all organizations has risen from 65 per cent. to 89 per cent. during the same period.

7. Central Labour Organizations.—In each of the capital cities, as well as in a number of other industrial centres, delegate organizations, consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions, have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a per capita tax on the members of each affiliated union. In the majority of the towns where such central organizations exist, most of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State, and there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils with which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other States, however, the organization is not so close, and though provision usually exists in the rules of the central council in the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils, or for the representation on the central council of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies. The following table gives the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated therewith, in each State at the end of the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952.

Central Labour Organizations: Number, and Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. Ter.	A.C.T.	Aus- tralia.
[ 1939	 3	5	6	2	8	2		I	27
1949	 8	9	13	6	9	5		I	51
No. of Councils 3 1950	IO	9	13	6	IO	5		I	54
1951	 II	9	12	6	IO	5	I	I	55
[1952	II	9	12	6	10	5	I	I	55
No. of Unions [ 1939	 103	179	79	50	210	59		9	689
	 246	274	143	130	327	99		21	1,240
and Branch 1950	 248	272	152	134	434	97		21	1,358
	 272	276	141	128	427	96	3	22	1,365
Affiliated 1952	 272	283	135	130	395	104	3	19	1,341

The figures regarding number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines and composed of delegates from separate unions whose members' interests are closely connected by reason of their occupations. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the metal trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

A Central Labour Organization, called the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the Trade Unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australasian Council is based on the Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils in each State, such bodies having the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan Councils, the Executive consists of four officers, viz., the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:—
(a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australian Trade Union Movement from the craft to an industrial basis by the establishment of one union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes; and (d) educational propaganda among unions.

The A.C.T.U. is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the trade union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting the names of suitable persons from which the Commonwealth Government selects the Australian Workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference.

8. Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.—Under Part VI. of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act any employer or association of employers in any industry who has employed not less than 100 employees during the six months preceding application for registration, and any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry may be registered.\* Registered unions include both interstate associations and associations operating within one State only.

<sup>\*</sup> Under the Arbitration (Public Service) Act an association of less than 100 employees may be registered as an organization, provided that its members comprise at least three-fifths of all persons engaged in that industry in the Service. Such organizations are included in the figures shown in the paragraph following.

At the end of 1952 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Act was 53. The number of unions registered at the end of 1952 was 151, with a membership of approximately 1,344,950, representing 82 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia.

# § 2. International Labour Organization.

- 1. General.—The International Labour Organization originated in the Peace Treaty of 1919 which made provision for the holding of International Labour Conferences and the institution of the International Labour Office. In the inter-war period, the International Labour Organization was an autonomous associate of the League of Nations, and in 1946 became the first of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Under the terms of agreement, the United Nations recognizes the International Labour Organization as a specialized agency having responsibility in the field defined by its Constitution which embraces labour conditions, industrial relations, employment organization, social security, and other aspects of social policy. The Organization has three basic parts. These are the International Labour Conference, its highest authority, which, as a rule, meets annually; the Governing Body, its executive council which usually meets four times a year; and the International Labour Office which provides the secretariat of the Organization. The Conference is composed of national delegations comprising two government delegates and one delegate each of employers and workers, together with their advisers. Subject to the adoption of recent amendments increasing its membership to 40, the Governing Body comprises the representatives of sixteen governments, eight worker members and eight employer members. Particulars are given in previous issues of the Labour Report of the proceedings at International Labour Conferences up to the 35th Session which opened in Geneva on 4th June, 1952.
- 2. **The International Labour Conference.**—The 36th Session of the International Labour Conference commenced in Geneva on 4th June, 1953. The Australian Delegation consisted of: Government Delegates: Mr. H. A. Bland, Mr. P. Shaw; Employers' Delegate: Mr. B. R. Orr; Workers' Delegate: Mr. A. E. Monk.

The Minister for Labour and National Service, the Right Honorable H. E. Holt, attended the opening sessions and addressed the Conference on the subject of full employment and productivity in Australia.

The Conference considered, among other things, the organization of National Labour Departments, the minimum age for admission to underground work in coal mines, and holidays with pay. Among the most important questions under discussion was the proposal to increase the size of the Governing Body to 40 members. Amendments to the constitution adopted by Conference will increase the number of Government delegates to twenty and workers' and employers' delegates to ten in each category.

3. Governing Body.—The Australian Government as a deputy member was represented at the 121st and 122nd Sessions of the Governing Body, which met in Geneva during March and May, 1953, by Mr. Patrick Shaw, Australian Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations.

## APPENDIX:

SECTION I.

Sydney: Average Retail Prices(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

	1	i							our and our	OZZ ZIZOZIVIZ	01 0110 10	ar, room.		
Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average,
Groceries, &c.— Bread	2 lb.	d.	d. 10.80	d. 11.80	d. 11.80	d. 11.80	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d. 12.30	d.
ordinary, self-raising	lb.	9.38 16.30 47.00	9.63 16.30 47.00	10.07 16.30 47.00	10.43	10.50	10.36	10.29	10.29	10.29 17.45	10.14 17.45	10.14 17.45	11.00	10.21
Sugar Sago	,,	6.50	6.50	6.50 18.30	47.00 8.00 19.80	47.00 8.00 20.30	47.00 8.00 21.31	47.90 8.00 21.67	48.00 8.00 21.71	48.00 8.00 22.21	47.65 9.00	47.60	47.65	47.40 7.87
Jam, plum Golden Syrup Oats, flaked	1½ lb. 2 lb.	25.45 11.95	26.25 11.95	29.05 II.95	29.45 14.25	29.45 14.50	29.55	29.55 14.50	29.55 14.50	29.35 14.50	22.75 29.35 14.50	25.17 29.35 17.65	25.57 29.35 18.45	21.08 28.81 14.43
Raisins, seeded Currants	lb.	11.50 29.00 21.14	11.50 29.00 21.14	12.10	12.64 32.33	12.50 32.33	12.75 32.33	11.93 32.33	11.93 33.00	11.93 32.50	11.93 32.75	12.10 32.75	12.00 32.75	12.07
Apricots, dried Peaches, canned	30 OZ.	50.60 26.95	50.60 26.95	21.14 50.60 26.95	22.94 52.83 39.00	22.7I 60.75 39.00	22.81 60.75 39.00	22.81 65.25 38.80	22.88 65.75 38.20	22.63 65.50 37.20	22.63 69.00 37.20	23.00 67.50 38.10	23.38 66.64 38.20	22.43 60.48 35.46
Pears, canned Potatoes Onions, brown	7 lb.	28.50 42.00 10.00	28.38 42.00 9.50	42.06 42.00 9.30	44.00 42.00 9.10	44.00	44.00	43.50 40.50	43.50 40.68	42.25 40.42	42.25 33.78	42.00 28.76	42.20 38.80	40.55 39.43
Soap Kerosene Dairy Produce—	quart	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.56	9.00 13.88 8.39	9.10 14.56 8.43	9.00 14.67 8.43	8.63 15.33 8.46	5.70 15.36 8.46	5.85 15.60 8.54	5.55 15.64 8.63	5.50 15.64 8.63	8.02 14.44 8.39
Butter, factory Cheese, mild	lb.	37.50	37.50	37.50 27.22	37.50 27.22	37.50 27.22	37.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	43.50
Eggs, new laid Bacon, rashers Milk, condensed	doz. lb. tin	65.15 69.28 18.50	68.15 69.28	68.15 69.28	72.00 69.28	72.00 71.94	72.00 72.19	66.00 71.93	62.00 63.61	33.50 62.00 61.28	33.50 62.00 60.89	33.50 62.00 61.94	33.55 65.00 63.89	30.36 66.37 67.07
" fresh	quart	16.00	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	19.45	20.70	2I.00 2I.00	2I.00 2I.00	21.00	2I.00 2I.00	2I.00 2I.00	19.80
Meat— Beef, sirloin	1b.	M	arch Quarte 38.08	er.	J	une Quarte	r.	Sept	tember Qua	arter.	Dec	ember Quar	ter.	41.00
,, steak, rump , , chuck , , sausages Beef (corned) silver-	>> >> >>		27.63 52.10 27.40 19.37			31.80 57.27 34.03 21.53			31.05 54.40 32.53 21.13			28.71 52.77 30.23 20.20		29.80 54.14 31.05 20.56
side brisket Mutton, leg	"		33.07 27.24 24.98			35.93 28.23 25.13			33·27 25.87 23·23			33·57 25.50 22.60		33.96 26.71
,, forequarter ,, loin ,, chops, loin	**		18.59 27.56 28.07			19.02 29.20 29.67			17.81 26.67 26.77	2 1		16.89 25.16 25.33		23.99 18.08 27.15 27.46
Pork, leg loin chops	27 22 22 22		28.15 52.27 53.73 53.77			29.83 53.13 54.70 54.63			26.80 53.00 55.03 54.87			25.70 54.67 56.29 56.36		27.62 53.27 54.94 54.91

Section I.—continued.

 $\textbf{Melbourne: Average Retail Prices}(a) \ \textbf{of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952}.$ 

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average,
roceries, &c		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread	2 lb.	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.50	12.50	13.00	12.17
Flour, ordinary	,,,	7.15	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.35	7.33	7.30	7.44	7.39	7.19	7.28	7.28	7.30
,, self-raising	,,	13.50	13.60	13.70	13.50	13.50	14.85	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.40	14.42
Tea	lb.	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.74	47.63	47.06	47.58	47.20	47.22	47.20
Sugar	,,	6.50	6.50	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.80	8.90	9.00	7.85
Sago	,,	15.39	15.50	15.56	15.72	16.39	18.06	19.17	19.17	19.94	21.25	22.08	23.17	18.45
Jam, plum	rt lb.	21.55	21.55	27.00	27.00	27.20	27.20	27.10	27.10	26.75	26.40	26.50	26.50 19.05	14.67
Golden Syrup	2 lb.	12.11	12,11	12.25	12.50	14.14	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.05	15.45	18.25	19.05	10.91
Oats, flaked	lb.	10.83	10.83	10.83	10.83	10.83	11.00	11.00	10.92	11.08	10.92	31.50	31.55	30.48
Raisins, seeded	,,,	27.88	27.88	28.20	29.75	30.56	31.69	31.72	31.61	31.72	31.65	22.13	22.19	21.36
Currants	,,	20.56	20.50	20.81	21.19	21.29	21.43	21.57	21.57	21.57	59.50	59.50	59.60	54.39
Apricots, dried	,,	46.33	47.00	47.00	52.75	52.00	53.88	56.13	59.50	59.50 32.50	32.80	33.40	33.40	31.06
Peaches, canned	30 OZ.	26.10	26.10	26.10	28.58	33.50	33.50	33.60 35.85	33.10	34.11	34.70	35.00	35.25	32.50
Pears, canned	23	26.20	26.20	26.20	29.17	35.85		35.00	31.50	31.50	23.92	23.83	23.80	31.61
Potatoes	7 lb.	34.77	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	6.00	5.90	5.90	4.60	4.90	5.00	5.94
Onions, brown	lb.	9.00	6.00	6.00	6.00		14.93	14.71	15.23	15.23	15.33	15.37	15.47	14.79
Soap	,,,	14.22	14.22	14.22	14.22	14.37 8.54	8.54	8.54	8.50	8.46	8.70	8.81	8.78	8.49
Kerosene	quart	8.25	8.25	8.24	8.24	0.54	0.34	0.54	0.5					
airy Produce—	lb.		27 05	37.95	37.95	37.95	37.95	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	43.72
Butter, factory		37.95 26.63	37.95	26.63	26.88	26.88	26.88	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	29.88
Cheese, mild Eggs, new laid	doz.	60.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	70.00	70.00	59.00	58.90	59.00	58.90	58.90	58.90	62.38
	lb.	65.89	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.38	67.38	67.38	67.38	67.38	67.75	67.75	67.19
	tin	18.40	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	19.20	20.30	20.90	20.85	20.85	20.85	20.85	19.68
Milk, condensed	quart	14.25	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	17.50	17.50	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	16.65
,, 110011	quin					_		G	4 ls on O	a a mh a m	Do	cember Qua	rtor	
feat		N	farch Quart	er.	J	une Quart	r.	sep	tember Qu	uarter.	De	37.74	LUCI.	36.72
Beef, sirloin	lb.		32.69			38.05						32.74		32.24
,, rib	,,		28.99			33.51			33.70 48.43			48.17		46.97
" steak, rump	,,		43.53			47.75			32.80			32.17		30.68
,, ,, chuck	> >		25.32			32.41			21.00			20.83		20.91
,, sausages	12		20.50			21.21			22.09					
Beef (corned) silver-			0-			37.25			37.40			36.73		36.05
side	9.7		32.81			29.64			29.80			28.57		28.02
brisket	,,		25.07			26.93			24.60			- 23.68		25.07
Mutton, leg	**		16.40			18.15			16.55			14.96		16.52
,, forequarter	**		23.75			25.89			22.52			21.89		23.51
ahama lain	**		25.79			26.65			24.21			22.55		24.80
log	**		26.42			27.59			25.13			23.95		25.77
Pork, leg	**		44.79			46.33			48.56			49.81		47.37
Lolm	,,		46.04			47.25			48.93			49.78		48.00
,, chops	,,,		46.54			47.70			49.58			50.37		40.55

 $\textbf{Brisbane: Average Retail Prices} (a) \ \textbf{of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952}.$ 

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average,
Groceries, &c.—  Bread Flour, ordinary Self-raising Tea Sugar Sago Jam, plum Golden Syrup Oats, flaked Raisins, seeded Currants Apricots, dried Peaches, canned Pears, canned Potatoes Onions, brown Soap Kerosene Dairy Produce— Butter, factory Cheese, mild Eggs, new laid	2 lb.  "lb. "lb. 2 lb. lb. "lb. 2 lb. "lb. "lb. "lb. "lb. "lb. "lb. "lb. "	d. 10.50 7.00 14.40 46.25 6.47 13.94 21.80 11.00 13.00 25.50 19.00 42.00 28.25 29.58 33.25 6.89 12.87 7.74 37.45 26.05	d. 11.00 7.00 14.40 46.25 6.47 14.10 21.85 11.00 13.00 25.36 19.00 42.00 28.25 20.58 37.75 7.11 12.90 7.80	d. 11.00 7.00 14.95 46.25 6.47 14.50 24.70 11.00 13.00 25.36 19.00 49.50 28.25 29.58 38.30 6.11 12.87 8.00 37.45	d. 11.00 7.00 14.95 46.25 7.97 14.70 25.45 13.05 25.45 13.05 25.58 38.35 7.56 13.24 8.00 37.45 6.00	d. 11.00 7.00 14.95 46.25 7.97 15.25 28.00 13.50 13.00 27.42 19.00 49.50 35.61 37.21 36.95 8.44 13.60 8.35	d. 11.50 7.00 14.95 46.25 7.97 15.64 27.70 13.45 12.00 27.56 49.50 35.17 36.43 35.70 8.75 14.57 8.43	d. 11.50 7.00 14.05 47.30 7.97 17.10 27.70 13.50 12.00 27.56 22.50 50.50 38.50 38.50 31.35 7.70 14.60 8.45	d. 11.50 7.00 14.95 47.25 7.97 17.10 27.95 13.50 12.00 28.31 24.00 50.50 35.56 38.83 35.00 4.45 15.20 8.48	d. 11.50 7.00 14.95 47.25 7.97 17.10 28.35 13.50 11.88 28.11 24.00 50.50 36.06 38.75 34.85 3.10 15.20 8.48	d. 11.50 7.00 15.25 46.90 8.87 17.10 27.95 13.50 11.13 28.00 20.50 55.00 36.11 38.28 27.95 2.80 15.44 8.68	d. 11.50 7.00 15.35 46.90 8.96 17.10 28.35 16.90 11.13 27.90 19.00 36.11 37.28 17.23 2.72 15.44 8.75	d. 12.00 7.70 15.40 46.90 8.96 17.10 28.35 17.15 11.13 28.05 19.00 35.89 37.22 23.00 3.05 15.44 8.77	d. 11.29 7.06 14.95 46.67 7.83 15.89 26.51 13.42 12.10 27.08 20.54 49.04 33.27 35.07 32.47 5.72 14.28 8.33
Bacon, rashers Milk, condensed ,, fresh	lb. tin quart	57.65 18.36 14.10	57.45 18.39 14.10	58.30 18.45 16.10	59.95 18.50 16.10	60.50 18.45 16.10	59.50 19.10 16.10	59.50 19.30 16.10	59.50 20.80 16.10	59·35 20.95 16.10	56.55 20.95 16.10	56.40 20.95 15.10	56.70 20.95 15.10	58.45 19.60 15.60
Meat— Beef, sirloin ,, rib ,, steak, rump ,, chuck ,, sausages Beef (corned) silver-	lb.	М	35.94 27.06 42.33 25.82 20.94	er.		June Quart 34.27 24.93 39.79 23.83 20.43	er.	Sep	33.53 24.10 39.00 23.10 18.06	arter.	Dec	ember Quar 33.20 24.00 39.00 23.03 17.80	ter.	34.24 25.02 40.03 23.95 19.31
side brisket Mutton, leg , forequarter loin , chops, loin , loin , chops	)) )) )) )) )) )) ))		31.88 27.21 23.18 17.73 22.85 23.70 23.44 44.76 44.45 11.63			29.80 25.38 22.69 17.53 22.31 23.18 22.62 45.82 45.72			28.90 24.87 21.58 16.73 21.52 22.20 21.60 47.47 47.13 47.17			28.90 24.13 21.10 16.12 20.98 21.80 21.07 46.97 46.47 46.53		29.87 25.40 22.14 17.03 21.92 22.72 22.18 46.26 45.92 46.01

 ${\bf Section~I.--} continued.$  Adelaide: Average Retail  ${\bf Prices}(a)$  of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

	*************		0 200,000	=====	4		GIOCOLIC						1	
Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June,	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average 1952.
recorded to		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
roceries, &c.— Bread	2 lb.	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	10.87
111			7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.85	7.48
	"	7.40	12.65	12.90	12.85	13.25	13.20	13.20	13.20	13.20	13.50	13.50	14.45	13.21
	lb.	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	47.50
		6.50	6.50	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.10	9.00	9.00	7.80
Sugar	,,				17.30	17.30	18.40	18.36	. 18.36	18.36	18.36	23.00	25.33	18.9
Sago	ıi'lb.	17.50	17.30	17.30		22.50	24.10	25.60	27.10	27.10	27.10	27.10	27.10	24.0
Jam, plum		19.55	19.55	19.55	21.75	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	18.45	18.45	14.8
Golden Syrup	2 lb. lb.	12.05	12.05	12.05	14.50	11.25	11.25	11.08	10.92	11.13	11.13	10.90	10.90	10.9
Oats, flaked		10.75	10.75	10.75		20.02	29.55	30.45	30.90	31.35	31.30	32.00	32.00	29.83
Raisins, seeded	2.7	27.57	27.57	27.57	28.63		29.55	21.60	21.65	21.60	21.60	21.60	21.60	21.2
Currants	2.2	20.45	20.45	20.45	21.00	21.35		54.94	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.78	55.78	51.1
Apricots, dried	> >	44.69	44.69	44.69	48.63	49.56	50.44		35.15	35.25	35.25	35.25	35.15	32.I
Peaches, canned	30 OZ.	25.19	25.19	25.13	30.31	34 · 39	34.50	34.50	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	33.8
Pears, canned	2.2	26.60	26.60	26.60	31.80	36.00	36.05	37.00	31.50	31.50	22.50	21.00	29.00	30.4
Potatoes	7 lb.	40.57	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.64	31.50	6.08	6.00	5.20	5.17	5.20	6.0
Onions, brown	lb.	6.50	7.75	4.50	6.50	7.00	6.50	6.08			15.64	15.67	15.67	14.4
Boap	,,	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.20	13.60	14.67	14.67	15.33	15.36	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.7
Kerosene	quart	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	, . ,
iry Produce											10 50	49.50	49.50	43.5
Butter, factory	lb.	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	32.50	32.50	29.2
Cheese, mild	,,	26.05	26.05	26.05	26.05	26.05	26.05	32.50	32.56	32.56	32.50	54.25	54.50	58.2
Eggs, new laid	doz.	54.45	58.85	60.05	61.50	64.50	64.50	61.60	55.90	55.05	54.25	58.65	58.60	61.2
Bacon, rashers	lb.	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	61.75	20.85	20.85	19.6
Milk, condensed	tin	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	19.50	19.95	20.70	20.70	20.70		15.50	15.2
" fresh	quart	14.50	14.50	14.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	13.2.
		1	arch Quart	- **	Т.	une Quarte	r	Sent	tember Qu	arter.	Dec	cember Quar	ter.	
at-	11.	MI		CI.		34.13		~ · · · · ·	34.27			28.07		31.0
Beef, sirloin	lb.		27.69			34.13			31.27			27.89		29,I
,, rib	9.9		26.57			51.20			51.50			44.07		46.9
" steak, rump	,,,		40.85			32.17			32.27			28.00		29.6
,, ,, chuck	2.2		25.96			18.00			18.07			17.23		17.6
", sausages	2.7		17.24			10.00			10,07					
Beef (corned) silver-						36.20			36.53			32.00		33.8
side	27		30.71			30.20			30.58			26.00		27.9
", ", brisket	11		25.26						23.53			20.31		24.5
Mutton, leg	3.3		26.99			27.40			13.02			10.21		13.8
,, forequarter	2.7		15.78			16.35		1	23.12			18.63		23.5
,, loin	9.7		26.30			26.25			23.26			19.05		23.6
,, chops, loin	2.9		25.84			26.27			23.73			19.27		24.I
leg	,,		26.27			27.24						49.43		49.4
	# 2		49.18			49.53			49.50			49.50		49.5
Pork, leg			10 00			49.63			49.70					
loin	3.7		49.29			50.43			50.17			49.93		49.9

	1	1	1									1		
Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average,
Groceries, &c		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread	2 lb.	11.00	11.00	u.	11.00	u. II.00	11.00	u.	u. II.50	11.50		11.50	12.00	11.25
Flour, ordinary	22	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.90	8.90	8.90	9.40	8.34
,, self-raising	,,	14.70	14.75	14.70	14.80	15.50	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.70	16.80	16.80	18.75	15.80
Tea	lb.	46.95	47.00	47.00	46.95	46.95	46.95	47.85	47.95	47.95	47.95	47.95	47.95	47.45
Sugar	23	6.50	6.50	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.60	9.00	9.00	7.84
Sago		19.15	19.60	19.60	20.35	20.95	23.20	23.56	23.89	27.20	27.20	28.25	29.50	23.54
Jam, plum	ıl lb.	24.56	24.72	24.89	24.72	24.65	28.60	32.10	32.10	32.22	31.75	31.85	31.85	28.67
Golden Syrup	2 lb.	13.00	13.00	13.00	15.10	15.90	15.94	15.95	15.95	15.95	16.00	19.25	19.95	15.75
Oats, flaked	lb.	9.70	9.58	10.00	9.60	11.57	12.79	13.21	12.79	12.21	12.29	12.29	12.29	11.53
Raisins, seeded	2.2	30.75	30.94	30.94	31.36	31.60	31.60	30.07	30.17	31.28	32.65	32.74	32.95	31.42
Currants	22	21.45	21.50	21.50	21.56	21.83	22.67	22.94	23.17	23.20	23.20	23.15	23.00	22.43
Apricots, dried	11	49.50	50.33	50.33	50.10	50.50	52.42	53.00	55.50	58.75	58.75	58.75	58.75	53.89
Peaches, canned	30 OZ.	30.50	30.33	30.33	30.75	30.75	38.25	41.06	41.63	41.33	40.00	40.40	40.40	36.31
Pears, canned		31.79	31.75	31.80	31.88	31.88	41.79	43.00	42.72	42.78	41.85	40.94	41.80	37.83
Potatoes	7 lb.	24.61	24.78	25.00	29.00	29.06	29.00	29.00	30.00	30.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	27.87
Onions, brown	lb.	5.89	6.00	6.00	6.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	7.61	7.50	6.94	6.56	7.21
Soap		13.64	13.64	13.64	13.83	14.26	15.44	15.60	15.33	16.23	16.67	16.70	16.74	15.15
Kerosene	quart	11.49	11.49	11.56	11.56	11.80	11.84	11.84	11.87	13.00	13.04	13.37	13.37	12.19
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory	lb.	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	44,00
Cheese, mild	3.9	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	33.50
Eggs, new laid		58.00	61.00	61.00	61.00	62.00	64.00	64.00	62.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	62.00	61.25
Bacon, rashers		57.50	57.50	58.40	58.55	58.55	59.30	60.95	60.95	60.95	60.95	60.95	60.95	59.62
Milk, condensed	tin	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.50	19.50	21.05	21.05	21.00	21.00	21.00	19.92
,, fresh	quart	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	16.25
Meat-		3.4	arch Quart	0.79	,	une Quarte	_	Con	tember Qu	omton	Do	cember Quar	ton	
TO 4 1 1 1	lb.	191		er.	J		Γ.	sep		arter.	Dec		ter.	22.02
-11-			31.00			31.17			34.00			31.89		32.02
ada a la muma m	**		24.00			24.45			26.00			24.11		24,64
ohnole	2.7		41.00			41.17			44.00			42.04		42.05
,, sausages	**		29.00 19.44			29.17 20.00			32.00 20.67			29.93 20.50		30.03
Beef (corned) silver-	2.2		19.44			20.00			20.07			20.50		20.15
side			30.00			20 42			33.00			31,67		31.28
brisket	,,		26.00			30.43 26.17			29.00			27.46		27.16
35-44 1	,,,		23.17			22.10			20.35			19.25		27.10
Announcedon	**		15.26			14.53			12.90			11.38		13.52
,, loin	"		20.94			20.83			19.63			18.55		19.99
" chops, loin	"		20.90			20.78			19.63			18.59		19.98
100	"		20.73			20.63			19.21			18.35		19.73
Pork, leg	"		44.64			47.30			50.90			52.16	,	48.75
,, loin	11		44.64			47.34			51.84			52.56		49.10
,, chops			44.85			47.40			51.84			52.56		49.16
,,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		773			77.7-			3			55-		43

 ${\bf Section~I.--} continued.$  Hobart: Average Retail  ${\bf Prices}(a)$  of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1952.
Proceries, &c.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread	2 lb.	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11:50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	12.50	II.42
Flour, ordinary	"	7.95	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.05	8.45	8.04
,, self-raising	,,	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.95	15.54
Tea	lb.	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	47.50
Sugar	,,	6.50	6.50	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	7.79
Sago		20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.20	21.00	21.75	21.95	21.95	22.25	22.55	24.95	21.38
Jam, plum	ıı lb.	19.65	29.00	29.00	29.10	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	28.23
Golden Syrup	2 lb.	12.5C	12.45	12.45	12.45	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	20.05	20.05	15.50
Oats, flaked	lb.	11.00	11.00	11.33	11.33	11.50	11.63	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.88	11.88	11.67	11.48
Raisins, seeded	,,	28.21	28.21	28.00	34.00	34.00	33.90	33.69	33.44	33 - 44	33.72	33.61	33.44	32.30
Currants		21.64	21.57	21.57	23.43	23.93	23.86	23.86	23.86	23.86	23.86	24.00	24.20	23.30
Apricots, dried	,,	46.17	45.17	46.17	60.50	58.75	57.10	59.25	60.75	60.75	60.75	60.00	60.00	56.36
Peaches, canned	30 OZ.	27.33	27.58	27.58	33.75	40.50	40.80	40.17	40.00	39.72	39.72	39.72	39.83	36.39
Pears, canned	"	27.79	27.93	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	46.28	47.05	47.05	45.35	45.35	42.65	43.45
Potatoes	7 lb.	40.89	41.13	41.13	38.43	36.54	34.26	32.69	32.44	32.70	31.06	28.00	28.88	34.85
Onions, brown	lb.	13.43	11.38	9.07	9.21	9.00	8.31	8.07	7.93	8.19	7.69	7.43	7.79	
Soap	,,	13.33	13.33	13.33	13.33	14.00	15.00	14.96	15.23	15.40	15.60	15.60	15.60	14.56
Kerosene	quart	12.32	12.32	12.48	12.48	12.13	12.37	12.26	12.26	12.41	13.47	13.51	13.51	12.63
Dairy Produce												70.00	49.80	43.98
Butter, factory	lb.	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	33.83	29.87
Cheese, mild		26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	32.53	32.53	33.50	33.50	33.50 60.00	60.00	63.45
Eggs, new laid	doz.	60.20	64.45	67.28	67.33	67.33	67.43	67.44	58.70	60.00 58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.63
Bacon, rashers	lb.	58.70	58.70	58.70	58.70	58.70	58.70	58.70 20.65	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	19.83
Milk, condensed	tin	18.55	18.55	18.55	18.55	18.60	19.50	18.00	18.00	18.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.25
,, fresh	quart	15.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	-73
leat		3.1	arch Quarte	T.	.Tı	ine Quarte	r	Sen	tember Qua	arter.	Dec	eember Quar	ter.	
TO 4 1 1 1	lb.	141	28.70			31.67			34.60			37.55	-	33.13
			25.07			26.58			29.31			31.65		28.15
,, rib ,, steak, rump	3.3		40.33			43.53			47.60			51.02		45.62
-11-	,,		25.30			27.37			30.50			32.38		28.89
	,,,		18.53			20.87	-		21.93			22.38		20.93
,, sausages Beef (corned) silver-	" "		10.55	1										
side			29.57			31.40			33.47			37.63		33.02
brisket	2.7		23.70			25.73			27.93			30.70		27.02
N.F. 44 1	3.3		27.51			27.88			28.44			27.93		27.94
A-ua-ham	3.9		17.59			17.43			17.50			16.90		17.36
lelp.	> >		21.67			23.33			23.84			23.63		23.12
-h late	**		24.42			24.62			24.83			24.84	-	24.68
10.00	**		25.33			27.38			28.52			26.60		26.96
Pork, leg	,,		41.73	_		41.53			44.00			46.98		43.56
1-Im	**		41.73			41.63			43.80			46.57		43.43
,, loin	226		42.13			42.03			44.80	100		47.20		44.04

<sup>(</sup>a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.  $\dot{\cdot}$ 

Section II.

Weekly House Rents (a) in Metropolitan and Provincial Towns.

Town.		WEIGHT		E WEEKLY		OR 4 AND	
	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
NEW SOUTH WALES-	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sydney Newcastle Broken Hill Goulburn Bathurst	23 3 20 0 16 0 18 3 17 8	23 5 20 4 16 0 18 7 17 8	23 6 20 4 16 0 18 7 17 9	23 7 20 5 16 3 18 8 17 9	23 7 20 5 16 5 18 8 17 9	23 8 20 5 16 5 18 8 17 11	25 2 20 11 16 8 18 11 18 10
Five Towns(b)	22 9	23 0	23 0	23 2	23 2	23 2	24 7
VICTORIA Melbourne	21 5 15 0 15 4 19 8 19 4	21 11 15 0 15 7 19 11	21 11 15 1 15 8 20 0 19 7	21 11 15 2 15 9 20 0 19 7	22 0 15 3 16 1 20 <b>Q</b> 19 10	22 0 15 5 16 4 20 0 19 10	22 2 15 7 16 7 20 1 20 2
Five Towns(b)	21 0	21 5	21 5	21 6	21 7	21 7	21 8
QUEENSLAND— Brisbane Toowoomba Rockhampton Townsville Bundaberg	19 2 17 9 16 11 18 1	19 5 18 1 17 6 18 2 14 4	19 5 18 4 17 8 18 2 14 5	19 6 18 6 17 11 18 2 14 6	19 10 19 0 18 6 18 2 14 9	21 0 19 10 19 1 18 7 15 3	21 7 19 11 19 10 20 0 15 7
Five Towns(b)	18 8	18 11	19 0	19 1	19 5	20 5	21 0
SOUTH AUSTRALIA— Adelaide	19 11 8 2 14 11 14 5 15 9	20 2 8 4 14 11 15 1	20 3 8 5 14 11 15 1 15 11	20 6 8 6 14 11 15 2 16 0	20 10 8 6 15 0 15 4 16 1	21 4 11 1 15 4 15 10	23 9 12 9 16 5 16 10 16 6
Five Towns(b)	19 3	19 6	19 7	19 10	20 2	20 8	22 11
WESTERN AUSTRALIA— Perth and Fremantle Kalgoorlie and Boulder Northam Bunbury Geraldton	19 9 27 8 18 7 21 1 22 4	19 11 22 8 18 10 20 7 22 4	20 0 22 9 19 3 20 8 22 4	20 I 23 0 20 I 21 I 22 8	20 3 23 7 20 3 21 7 23 0	23 II 24 9 24 9 25 2 27 5	26 8 25 5 27 0 27 6 30 2
Five Towns(b)	20 5	20 2	20 3	20 5	20 7	24	26 8
Tasmania— Hobart Launceston Burnie Devonport Queenstown	20 9 19 1 17 6 16 0 16 11	21 0 19 5 17 11 16 2 17 1	21 0 19 7 17 11 16 2 17 2	21 1 19 8 17 11 16 2 17 2	21 2 19 8 17 11 16 4 17 2	23 7 23 2 20 8 18 4 17 10	24 3 23 7 20 II 18 IO 18 O
Five Towns(b)	19 9	20 1	20 1	20 2	20 3	22 10	23 5
Thirty Towns(b) Six Gapitals(b)	21 2 21 8	21 5	21 6 22 0	21 8 22 1	21 9 22 2	22 2 22 8	23 3 23 9

<sup>(</sup>a) The rents are shown to the nearest penny. Revised series comparable only with averages published since December Quarter, 1936. Seef ootnote (b) on page 10, and sub-paragraph (vii) on page 2 as to the meaning of these averages. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account in the above table.

(b) Weighted average.

#### SECTION III.

#### Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities: Australia and Other Countries, 1952.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

		AUSTRALIA.(a)							NEW ZEALAND.									
Article.		Unit or Quan- tity.	or Quan-			Sydney.			Melbourne.			Wellington.			Christchurch.			
		oroy.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	Мау.	Aug.	No▼.
			d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
read		2 lb.	10.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
our, ordinary		,,,	9.63	10.50	10.29	10.14	7.30	7.35	7.44	7.28	6.54	6.54	6.54	6.51	6.24	6.24	6.24	6.2
ea		lb.	47.00	47.00	48.00	47.60	47.00	47.00	47.63	47.20	75.20	75.20	72.30	72.30	77.00	77.00	72.00	72.00
m, plum		1½ lb.	26.25	29.45	29.55	29.35	21.55	27.20	27.10	26.50	27.26	28.71	28.71	29.14	26.83	29.74	29.74	29.2
ıgar		lb.	6.50	8.00	8.00	9.00	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.90	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.5
atmeal		11	11.50	12.50	11.93	12.10	10.83	10.83	10.92	10.92	8.78	10.05 b17.40	10.25 b17.40	10.26 b17.80	9.00 b16.00	10.30 b16.70	b17.30	bi7.5
aisins		22	29.00	32.33	33.00	32.75	27.88	30.56	31.61		b17.40			42.30		35.38	40.80	44.0
eaches, canned		30-oz. tin	26.95	39.00	38.20	38.10	26.10	33.50	33.10	33.40	34.50 37.31	34.50 35.88	37.30	57.19	34.17	16.80	25.20	27.1
otatoes		7 lb.	42.00	42.00	8.63		35.00 6.00	35.00 6.00	5.90	4.90	8.00	5.50	5.50	5.00	3.25	3.25	4.88	2.40
nions ilk		lb.	9.50	9.00	21.00	5.55 21.00	16.50	16.50	17.50	17.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	*8.00	8.0
-tton		quart				49.50	37.95	37.95	49.50	49.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.0
		ID.	37.50 27.22	37.50 27.22	49.50	33.50	26.63	26.88	33.00	33.00	20.80	20.80	20.80	22.00	21.20	21.20	21.80	22.7
		dozen	68.15	72.00	62.00	62.00	65.00	70.00	58.90	58.90	55.00	69.13	45.00	51.00	51.00	63.00	40.00	45.0
		lb.	69.28	71.94	63.61	61.94	67.00	67.00	67.38	67.75	36.30	36.30	36.50	42.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	40.2
acon	* *		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	0 . 0 .	5 . 5	0 .0					
ef, sirloin			38.08	44.48	41.30	40.15	32.69	38.05	38.40	37.74	22.67	22.67	24.67	25.00	21.67	22.33	23.67	25.0
m/lb		2.9	27.63	31.80	31.05	28.71	28.99	33.51	33.70	32.74	20.33	20.67	21.00	24.00	20.33	21.33	22.33	23.3
ataale miran		12	52.10	57.27	54.40	52.77	43.53	47.75	48.43	48.17	29.33	30.00	31.67	32.33	27.00	27.33	28.67	30.3
sausages		9.9	19.37	21.53	21.13	20.20	20.50	21.21	21.09	20.83	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.67	12.33	12.00	13.00	13.0
utton, leg		,,,	24.98	25.13	23.23	22.60	25.07	26.93	24.60	23.68	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.67	21.67	21.67	22.00	22.3
" forequarter		,,	18.59	19.02	17.81	16.89	16.40	18.15	16.55	14.96	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.33	12.00	12.33	12.67	13.0
ahoma :			28.15	29.83	26.80	25.70	26.42	27.59	25.13	23.95	23.33	23.33	24.00	24.67	20.33	21.33	21.67	22.0
ork, leg		,,	52.27	53.13	53.00	54.67	44.79	46.33	48.56	49.81	24.00	25.67	28.00	28.67	25.00	25.00	25.67	29.0
,, chops		,,,	53.77	54.63	54.87	56.36	46.54	47.70	49.58	50.37	24.67	25.67	27.00	28.00	25.67	26.00	28.00	31.0

<sup>(</sup>a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. for September quarter. (f) Average for December quarter.

<sup>(</sup>b) Sultanas.

<sup>(</sup>c) Average for March quarter.

<sup>(</sup>d) Average for June quarter.

<sup>(</sup>e) Average

Section III.—continued.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities: Australia and Other Countries, 1952—continued.

									U	Union of Sc	OUTH AFRICA	۸.		
Article.		Unit or Quantity.	UNITED KINGDOM.(a)				Capetown.				Witwatersrand.			
			Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
			d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread		2 lb.	6.9	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
Flour, ordinary		,,	8.7	II.2	II.2	II.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Tea		lb.				(b)53.4	72.I	73.6	71.9	72.9	7I.I	73.6	71.6	72.3
Jam		1½ lb.					(c)16.7	(c)17.6	(c)17.9	(c)18.2	(c)17.6	(c)18.2	(c)18.4	(c)18.6
Sugar		lb.	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5 · 3	5 · 5	5 · 5
Rice		,,	10.0	13.0	13.0	13.0								
Oatmeal		,,					II.I	13.6	13.4	13.4	II.I	13.6	13.5	13.5
Raisins		,,	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	21.7	22.3	22.7	22.4	22.7	22.9	23.6	24.4
Peaches, canned		30-oz. tin	35.4	35.4	35.4	35.4	25.9	26.7	27.I	27.I	27.9	29.1	29.4	29.6
Potatoes		7 lb.				(b)13.6	28.0	31.5	44.8	51.1	17.5	21.0	30.1	58.1
Onions		lb.				(b) 6.0	4.0	9.3	17.3	7.8	4.8	11.8	19.0	5.3
Milk		quart	12.0	12.0	13.0	13.0	11.0	II.2	12.2	12.2	II.2	II.2	12.0	12.6
Butter		lb.	30.0	30.0	30.0	36.0	34.0	34.0	36.5	38.0	34.0	34.0	36.5	37.9
Cheese		. ,,	24.0	24.0	24.0	26.0	28.0	28.0	29.5	32.0	28.0	28.0	29.5	31.7
Eggs		dozen	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	40.6	49.5	32.6	32.2	40.I	48.8	32.0	32.0
Bacon		lb.	42.0	42.0	42.0	48.0	38.0	39.5	40.6	40.6	37.9	38.0	39.1	38.9
Beef, sirloin		,,	$\begin{cases} (d)_{30.0} \\ (e)_{26.0} \end{cases}$	(d)30.0 (e)26.0	(d)36.0 (e)32.0	(d)36.0 (e)32.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	23.9	23.7	23.9	24.0
,, rib		,,	22.0	22.0	26.0	26.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.7
,, steak, rump			36.0	36.0	40.0	40.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.4	28.3	28.3	28.4
		,,	f (d)28.0	(d)28.0	(d)34.0	(d)34.0	1	22.0	27.0	31.0	25 7	22 7	32.6	34.I
Mutton, leg		,,	(e)18.0	(e)18.0	(e)20.0	(e)20.0	32.0	32.0	31.0		35.7	33.7		
Pork, leg		,,	28.0	28.0	34.0	34.0	26.0	26.0	27.0	27.0	25.9	25.7	26.4	26.4
,, chops		,,	34.0	34.0	40.0	40.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.0	28.2	28.I	29.I	29.0

<sup>(</sup>a) Maximum permitted prices with exception of those marked (b). (d) British. (e) Imported.

<sup>(</sup>b) Average prices in seven large towns in Great Britain in mid-October, 1951.

<sup>(</sup>c) Union jam.

Section III.—continued.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities: Australia and Other Countries, 1952—continued.

					•										
Article.			Unit or Quantity.	or Ottawa.					Montreal.				United States of America.(a)		
				Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Oct.(b)	
Bread			2 lb.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	
lour, ordinary			,,	15.6	15.6	15.2	15.2	14.8	15.0	14.8	15.0	21.1	21.0	20.8	
ea			lb.	110.4	III.2	110.8	109.6	112.8	112.4	112.6	112.0				
am			1½ lb.	(c)37.2	(c)37.2	(c)36.9	(c)36.8	(c)39.3	(c)38.5	(c)37.9	(c)38.1				
ugar			lb.	12.1	11.6	10.6	10.4	11.6	10.8	10.2	9.7	10.1	10.2	10.	
tice			,,									17.3	17.7	18.	
atmeal			33	13.6	13.3			13.2	13.1			14.5	14.4	14.	
taisins			,,	26.8	27.6	29.5	26.4	24.5	24.6	24.8	25.1				
eaches, canned			30-oz. tin	44.6	44.6	43.8	43.8	45.4	45.8	45.2	41.8				
otatoes			7 lb.	43.8	56.6	54.0	41.3	41.5	51.7	44.2	37 - 2	46.0	56.7	49.	
[ ( ) ] <sub>=</sub>				10.6	15.7	12.9	21.8	11.6	16.3	11.7	9.7	10.4	15.3		
utter			quart	74.0	63.8	61.3	65.6	20.0	20.0 62.0	20.0	20.0 64.1	24.I	23.8	21.	
heese				70.6	70.2	68.6	68.8	69.4	69.2	60.2	68.8	94.I 60.I	60.2	бі.	
ggs			dozen	54.0	50.6	74.1	82.9	54.8	52.2	72.0	83.0	58.1	57.2	80.	
acon			lb.	74.2	60.3	57.4	61.0	72.9	58.5	57.2	58.0	61.8	60.6	69.	
eef, strloin			21	108.1	88.3	95.1	76.3	114.6	105.3	109.2	92.1				
,, rib			,,	IOO.I	85.6			100.2	91.6			87.6	86.4		
" steak, rump			,,	102.8	87.7	90.2	73.4	108.6	100.9	106.1	88.1	112.1	111.6		
ork chops			,,	62.5	58.5	63.6	64.0	6o.I	55.9	58.1	62.4	73.9	81.2	87.	

<sup>(</sup>a) Average for all towns.

<sup>(</sup>b) Particulars for August and November not yet available.

<sup>(</sup>c) Strawberry jam.

## SECTION IV.

"Court" Index (Third Series) (a)—In the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration—Quarterly Retail Price Index-Numbers—Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses), Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure.

December Quarter, 1951 to December Quarter, 1952.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 103.0.)

eu.		1951.		19	)52.	
Cities and Towns		December Quarter.	March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.
New South Wales—						
Sydney		216.3	223.2	235.2	236.6	238.1
Newcastle		213.3	217.8	229.7	230.8	231.5
Broken Hill		224.7	231.3	243.0	246.I	245.0
Goulburn		215.8	221.2	234.5	232.0	231.5
Bathurst		210.1	215.6	229.4	233.0	235.7
Five Towns (b)		216.1	222.8			
Victoria—		210.1	222.0	234.9	236.3	237.7
3.6.11					0	
		209.3	212.0	224.2	228.4	229.0
Ballarat		207.9	210.6	220.9	226.7	226.2
Bendigo		204.6	208.5	220.7	225.6	226.I
Geelong		207.4	211.1	222.4	227.I	226.7
Warrnambool		210.9	214.5	226.7	232.9	234.0
Five Towns (b)		209.0	211.9	224.0	228,2	228.8
Queensland—						
Brisbane		199.2	206.6	212.5	215.6	215.1
Toowoomba		200.2	208.2	215.5	217.0	217.3
· Rockhampton		200.8	209.3	215.2	217.5	219.1
Townsville		206.6	214.4	220.6	224.0	225.9
Bundaberg		196.8	206.8	211.3	214.0	214.8
Five Towns (b)		199.8	207.4	213.4	216.4	216.3
South Australia—			·		·	
Adelaide		204.9	211.3	223.5	229.I	225.3
Kadina, Moonta, Wal		198.1	204.2	215.3	219.2	216.7
Port Pirie		202.3	209.0	221.5	226.7	222.2
Mount Gambier		208.2	212.3	222.2	225.2	223.9
Peterborough		203.3	208.3	221.6	225.I	221.9
Five Towns (b)		204.6	211.0	223.0	228.6	224.8
Western Australia—						
Perth, Fremantle		204.8	214.2	222.2	228.2	229.I
Kalgoorlie, Boulder		214.0	222.8	231.8	237.8	239.3
Northam		205.0	213.2	224.5	230.6	232.0
Bunbury		207.2	216.9	224.3	230.9	232.2
Geraldton		215.2	223.4	235.3	242.5	243.4
Five Towns (b)		205.7	215.0	223.3	229.3	230.3
Tasmania—	,			223.3		230.3
Hobart		208.4		222 2	220 7	007 5
Launceston		200.4	214.2	222.3	229.7	231.5
TD !		202.8	208.5		227.4	
Burnie Devonport		202.0		217.2	224.0	223.5
0 1			205.I 210.I	214.1	221.3	1
		204.7		217.5	222.2	223.2
Five Towns (b)		207.4	212.7	220.9	228.I	229.2
Thirty Towns $(b)$		210.1	215.8	226.9	230.2	230.6
Six Capital Cities (b)		210.3	216.0	227.2	230.5	231.0
Special Toy	WNS NOT I	NCLUDED II	N ABOVE V	VEIGHTED	AVERAGES.	
Warwick (Q.)		197.5	205.3	212.2	215.6	216.5
Port Augusta (S.A.)		204.8	209.8	222.9	227.3	221.8
Whyalla (S.A.)		207.6	211.8	225.I	229.2	225.9
Canberra (A.C.T.)		216.6	221.0	234.3	235.6	234.7

<sup>(</sup>a) See page 39 for explanation. (b) Weighted average.

## SECTION V.

# "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

MEMORANDA

AND

COMMENT

SUBMITTED DURING THE

BASIC WAGE HEARING 1949-50

AND

EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH COURT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.

# Section V.—continued.

#### CONTENTS.

		PAGE
I.	Memorandum by Acting Commonwealth Statistician to the Court—June,	166
	1949	1
2.	Replies by Acting Commonwealth Statistician to Questions asked by	0
	delegates, A.C.T.U. Congress, Sydney, June, 1945	170
3.	The "C" Series Index and Basic Wage Adjustments—Submissions by	
	Mr. W. A. Baker (Advocate for Certain Unions)	189
4.	Comment by Acting Commonwealth Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's	
	Submissions	196
5.	Extracts from Judgments referring to "C" Series Retail Price Index	210

#### Section V.—continued.

# MEMORANDUM BY THE ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN ON THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

(Prepared for the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, June, 1949.)

- - (A)—Definition.(B)—Basic Principles.
  - (C)—Retail Price Index-numbers Used by the Court.
  - (D)—Retail Price Index-numbers and Wage Variations.
  - (E)—Organization and General Background.

  - (F)—Methods by which Prices Used are Ascertained.
    (G)—The "C" Series Index in the Period 1939–48.
    (H)—Present Position in regard to Index.
  - - Annexure (1).—Replies by the Statistician to questions at the A.C.T.U. Congress, June, 1945.
    - Annexure (2).—List of "Extra" Items, collection of which was instituted in
    - Annexure (3).—Form used in Census of Retail Establishments, 1948.

This memorandum is introductory in character. Details and discussion of technical points have been omitted.

> S. R. CARVER, Acting Commonwealth Statistician. 8th June, 1949.

#### SECTION V.—continued.

#### THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

SECTION (A)—DEFINITION.

- (1) The official definition of the purpose of the index is of fundamental importance. It is as follows:—
  - "The 'C' Series Retail Price Index is designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While it may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a constant standard of living, it does not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, it measures as nearly as may be the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index. The regimen is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households".(a)
- (2) The Statistician describes the index as a *price* index, not as a "cost of living" index. Colloquially it is often referred to as a "cost of living" index and industrial tribunals sometimes use this phrase and the phrase "cost of living variations". While use of such a misnomer may be conveniently descriptive in some ways, it frequently leads to confusion of thought and to irrelevant discussions on the index. Prices are an important element in the cost of living but they are not the only element causing changes in cost of living.
- (3) No single index could simultaneously measure the extent of all changes in cost of living. The "C" Series Index is solely a *price* index and is used by the Court only as such. It is erroneous to ascribe demerits to a price index on the ground that it measures only the price component in changes in cost of living. Changes in cost of living caused by factors other than price variations are subjects for consideration quite independently of the "C" Series Index.
- (4) The index is by design representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households and its regimen and weights are appropriate to this design. This distinguishes it from so-called "general purpose" indexes designed to measure changes in the level of "retail prices generally" or of "retail prices as affecting total consumer expenditures". No index with any great pretension to accuracy has as yet been compiled for these "general purposes". If such an index were compiled it would necessarily cover a very wide range of items and would be weighted in proportions very different from those of the "C" Series Index. It is quite erroneous in times of wide price dispersion (e.g., 1939 to 1949) to use the "C" Series Index as relevant for "general purposes" and idle to try to derive some "general purpose" index by simple adaptation of the "C" Series Index.(a)
- (5) By "price dispersion" is meant the "scatter" of price variations over very wide ranges during abnormal periods. This may be illustrated very simply by reference to the percentage increase in prices of the four main groups of the "C" Series Index from September Quarter, 1939 to March Quarter, 1949 for the Six Capital Cities combined:—

Group.			Incr	eases in Prices.
				Per cent.
Food and Groceries		,	 	47.9
Rent (4 and 5-roomed houses)			 	I.4
Clothing and Footwear			 	121.2
Miscellaneous			 	35.7
Weighted Average "C" Se	ries Ind	ex	 	48.9

Instances for individual items show still wider dispersion over this period—

Average Six Capital Cities—September Quarter, 1939 to March Quarter, 1949—Approximate

Increase in Price.

		2,,,,,	 . , , , , ,		Per cent.
Sugar			 	 	12
Beef			 	 	72
Mutton			 	 	60
Sox, All Wool			 	 	100
Pyjamas, Wind			 	 	172
Frock, Cotton	(Womai	n's)	 	 	250

The term "price dispersion" recurs in this memorandum in this sense.

#### SECTION V.—continued.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

SECTION (B)—BASIC PRINCIPLES.

The basic principles relevant to the "C" Series Index are:-

- (1) The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole. In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and quantities of many of the items commonly used.
- (2) A full explanation of the methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved is contained in the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9. For convenience the group of selected items is called a "regimen", and the quantities consumed per annum of each item used in the index are called "weights". These terms are used herein. In compiling the index the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight" and then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by denoting the aggregate of a selected or "base" period as 1,000, and calculating all index-numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to that of the base period.
- (3) Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

 (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;

- (b) that the regimen be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;(c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to the quantities actually used in the selected field.
- (4) The regimen must be a selected regimen because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. Even in normal times there is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the regimen of the index to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend the regimen by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The regimen of the index therefore is not, as is sometimes erroneously supposed, a basic wage regimen nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. In fact the regimen used for the "C" Series Index is simply a selected list of items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations on a defined basis. The items are representative of the field covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption as far as can be ascertained. In order to avoid breaks in continuity of the index it is desirable to keep the regimen and weights as stable as possible. It is not always easy to reconcile this principle with that of keeping the index closely representative of current consumption over long periods. The difficulties experienced with abnormal short-term fluctuations are referred to in Section G hereof.
- (5) The regimen and weights used in the "C" Series Index are published in full on pages 11–13 of Labour Report No. 36. The 160 items embraced in the index are distributed over the following groups:—groceries (20 items), dairy produce (6), meat (15), house rent (1), clothing and footwear (78), household drapery (9), household utensits (19), fuel and light (4), fares and other miscellaneous items of expenditure (8). For a number of the items prices are recorded for several different grades, types or sizes.

## SECTION (C)—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS USED BY THE COURT.

The following is a brief statement of the index-numbers used by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from time to time:—

(i) "A" Series.—This series covered items of food and groceries and the rent of all houses, with the year 1911 as the base (1,000). It was first compiled in 1912 and was discontinued in June Quarter, 1938. The index was used by the Court from 1913 to May, 1933.

#### Section V.—continued.

## THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Section (C)—continued.

- (ii) "B" Series.—The "B" Series was first compiled in 1925 and covers items of food and groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, with the years 1923-27 as base (1,000). It is the food and rent constituent of the "C" Series. It has replaced the "A" Series, but has not been used for adjustment of wages by Industrial Tribunals.
- (iii) "C" Series.—This series was constructed as the result of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and the regimen adopted was substantially that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission with necessary periodical adjustments. It was first compiled in 1921 and is available for the month of November for the six capital cities for the years 1914 to 1921, quarterly for these cities from June Quarter, 1922, and quarterly for the 30 important towns from March Quarter 1925 to date. The series was first used in connexion with the variation of wages by the Commonwealth Court in May, 1933, when the Court introduced the "D" Series. In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted as from 1st May, 1934, the "C" Series Index as the sole basis for the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment. In its judgment of 23rd June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court adopted this index as the basis of the "Court" Index (First Series) for the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the Court's basic wage.
- (iv) "D" Series.—The "D" Series was a combination of the "A" and "C" Series, and was introduced by the Commonwealth Court for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. reduction in real wages determined by the Court in January, 1931. It was used from 1st May, 1933 to 30th April, 1934.
- (v) "Court" Series.—The "Court" Series was created by the Commonwealth Court in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, and operated from 1st July, 1937. Its purpose was to provide a set of index-numbers which would be published by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible for the fixation and adjustment of wage rates. Its introduction had the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the manner most convenient for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base or components of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards.

#### SECTION (D)—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS AND WAGE VARIATIONS.

- (1) The object of this section is to indicate the specific and limited province of the index in relation to wage adjustments.
- (2) Two distinct procedures are adopted by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in fixing and varying the basic wage, as follows:—
  - (i) The Court periodically fixes the amount of the wage in the light of evidence submitted by parties appearing before it. Such evidence usually covers a wide range of facts as to economic conditions;
  - (ii) having determined the amount of the basic wage the Court further determines whether or not it shall be subject to automatic adjustment for changes in price level and, if so, by what method such variation shall be made. This again is decided in the light of evidence and of representations by the parties concerned.
- (3) For the latter purpose only the "C" Series Index is used by the Court. From it is derived the "Court" Series Index upon which the basic or "needs" portion of the wages prescribed in awards is varied automatically for changes in price levels quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. These are commonly referred to as "cost of living adjustments" although in fact they relate only to that part\*of the change in cost of living which is due to variations in prices. In determining from time to time at public sittings the amount of the basic wage, the Court takes cognizance of evidence submitted in relation to other aspects of "cost of living" and other relevant considerations. It does not have regard to either the regimen used in compiling the retail price index or the cost of such regimen. The regimen of the index would not be suited to such a purpose.
- (4) The use of index-numbers by industrial authorities for purposes of adjusting rates of wages for changes in price level is a practice of long standing, dating in the case of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, for example, back to 1913. The tribunals form their own judgment as to the relevance of the index-numbers to their purposes

#### Section V.—continued.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Section (D)—continued.

and periodically hear the representatives of employers and employees on the issues involved, including questions as to whether the index is satisfactory for the purposes to which it is applied by the tribunal. In such proceedings the Statistician or his officers are called at times as witnesses on questions of fact and technical matters relating to the index-numbers.

#### SECTION (E)—ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL BACKGROUND.

- (1) Compilation of the index involves collection of more than 50,000 actual prices each quarter covering 100 items a number of which are represented by more than one grade or brand. These prices are checked, tabulated and the index compiled and sent to the Court regularly about two weeks after the end of each quarter, and then published. Separate indexes are compiled for 41 cities and towns (and combinations thereof) each quarter, viz., one for each capital city, one for each of 28 principal towns, one for the six capital cities combined and one for the five towns of each State combined. The large amount of work involved is done with the utmost pessible speed to ensure a minimum of delay in the Court's system of automatic quarterly wage adjustments. Meticulous care is taken at all stages of compilation and it has never been necessary to amend the index at any time after its publication.
- (2) In all, sixteen officers are engaged full time on the index and of these, eleven work principally "in the field" visiting retailers to collect and verify prices and qualities. The Statistician and some of his principal officers closely examine, each quarter, problems arising in the index. When occasion requires, questions of high principle are referred to the Conference of Commonwealth and State Statisticians.
- (3) This extensive organization is far in excess of that considered necessary for other price indexes because of the importance of the "C" Series Index to the Court, to industry and to individual employees. The index is a major factor in the wage, cost and price structures of the community. Over the past ten years automatic wage adjustments based on the index have amounted to 38s. per week for adult males. Directly and indirectly this is equivalent to nearly £200,000,000 per annum of the total amount of something like £1,000,000,000 paid as wages and salaries annually in Australia at the present time.
- (4) The elements of increase in the basic wage (six capital cities) over the past ten years (September, 1939 to May, 1949) are :—

1939 Total Basic Wage . . . . 79s. (including 5s. non-adjustable).
1939–1949 Increase . . . 38s. by automatic adjustments (based on index).

1946 Increase . . . . . . 7s. by Court interim award.
Total Basic Wage from 1st May, 1949 124s. (including 5s. non-adjustable).

- (5) While the index is compiled by the Statistician for general statistical purposes within the official definition, it originated in its present form from the recommendations of the Basic Wage Commission of 1920 and was adopted by the Court in 1934 as an instrument more suitable to the Court's purposes than other indexes then available.
- (6) The "C" Series Index has remained throughout an objective statistical index for measuring defined price variations. It has never been used as an instrument of administrative policy.

SECTION (F)-METHODS BY WHICH PRICES USED IN THE INDEX ARE ASCERTAINED.

The methods by which prices used in the "C" Series Index are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows:—

(i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the collection and each is required to furnish a return of prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from about ten retailers in each of the capital cities, and from about five retailers in each of the provincial towns.

#### SECTION V.—continued.

### The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued.

#### Section (F)—continued.

- (ii) These returns are collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1946 which requires that returns be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to competitors or to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply returns, against supplying false information, and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of the return,
- (iii) The actual collection of returns is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, &c.
- (iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to verify returns. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.
- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officer review the whole of the items for which prices are collected after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for identical goods and quality will be recorded at all times and for all places.
- (vi) The list of items in the regimen and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary suitable adjustment is made in computing the retail price index to ensure that it reflects changes in price with due precision and that it is not vitiated by the influence of other changes.
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of 4 and 5-rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations which may be equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from the Census of 1933 and other records. Although expressed in money terms, the average rentals as published are essentially indexes. As such they do not necessarily indicate the average amount of rental actually paid for all rented houses, and still less do they indicate the rental at which vacant or new houses can be rented.

## SECTION (G)—THE "C" SERIES INDEX IN THE PERIOD 1939-48.

- (1) Between the comprehensive revision of 1936 and the outbreak of war in 1939 changes in conditions did not require any appreciable revision of the regimen or of the weights of items therein. The adjustments made in 1936 had brought the basis of the index up to date in the sense that it conformed reasonably closely to normal pre-war usage.
- (2) The position of the index in the period 1939–48 may best be considered in three phases :—
  - (a) 1939-42.—Until 1942, conditions affecting the index were not greatly different from those obtaining in pre-war years. Scarcities and wide price dispersion began to appear in 1941 and 1942 and these affected the pattern of consumption. Nevertheless the index remained in this period virtually as representative of current conditions as it was of pre-war conditions.

## SECTION V.—continued.

The "  ${\bf C}$  " Series Retail Price Index—continued.

Section (G)—continued.

- (b) 1942-45.—This period was one of unprecedented abnormality due to such things as the introduction of coupon rationing, measures for standardizing some types of goods, price subsidies, price stabilization, scarcities of certain goods, total disappearance of others, erratic supply and changes in grade of goods. These things did not occur en bloc and conditions did not remain constant for long periods. Adjustments and re-adjustments of conditions recurred at short intervals throughout the period. It would have been impossible to measure relative current consumption of individual items at any given time, because conditions had changed again before the necessary data could be obtained. In this period the index was continued on its pre-war regimen. It could not have been based on a current regimen with current weights and a change to a "war-time" regimen had little or nothing to recommend it because there was in fact no typical war-time regimen continuously representative of current conditions.
- (c) 1945-48.—This period also was entirely abnormal because it was a period of transition by successive changes out of the abnormal conditions that existed at the end of the war in 1945, toward a post-war normal as war-time controls and measures were lifted or varied. Furthermore, demobilization extended from 1945 through 1946 and the resultant re-equipping of ex-servicemen with civilian requirements introduced a new disturbance into the pattern of consumption which continued through 1947. It was not until after the abolition of most coupon rationing and the discontinuance of most price subsidies in the latter part of 1948 that consumer habits could commence to settle down to normal usage. In principle the statements made in the latter half of the preceding sub-section (b) applied also in the period 1945-48.
- (3) Some adaptations were however made in the "C" Series Index to meet special circumstances. Where necessary, new grades, qualities or types of articles were substituted for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This applied more particularly to the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the index. Substitutions of similar kind had been necessary at times under normal conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. No change of principle was involved but the necessity for such substitutions arose more frequently between 1943 and 1948 than formerly. Care was taken to ensure that only price variations were measured.

These adaptations continue as and when necessary because it is still an open question as to whether and how far the post-war normal will differ from pre-war normal.

(4) So far as the "C" Series Index is concerned the difficulties created by coupon rationing, price subsidies, price stabilization, standardization and the like virtually ended toward the end of 1948. Their effects were therefore upon the past course of the index. Apart from the transitional aftermath now passing, they do not affect the present position of the index nor can they affect its future trend.

(5) In so far as the past is of any relevancy for present purposes two main aspects may be considered briefly:—

(a) The Alternatives to Keeping the "C" Series Index on its Pre-war Regimen during the Years 1942-48.

Conceivable alternatives were (a) to construct temporary indexes or (b) to revise the basis of the "C" Series Index. Both matters were continuously under review by the Statistician from 1943 onward although he received no official request for a temporary index nor for revision of the "C" Series Index. It has already been indicated that in the circumstances prevailing from 1943 to 1948 no single war-time index and no single temporary post-war index could have been either continuously or precisely representative. A series of indexes on different bases could perhaps have been linked together, but their structure and the results derived from them would have rested largely on judgment and conjecture. Similarly, if the "C" Series Index itself had been reconstructed, the resultant changes in the index would have been so extensive as virtually to create a new index which would not have been continuously comparable with the "C" Series Index either as compiled pre-war or as it is likely to be compiled in post-war years. Furthermore, such changes in the index would have had to be repeated at short intervals, virtually destroying the index as an instrument for measuring price changes on any continuous basis.

## THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Section (G)—continued.

Inquiry showed that even if changes were desirable, additional items could not be added to the index to link with the pre-war period because sufficient reliable pre-war prices could not be obtained by retrospective inquiry. Repeated examinations by the Statistician of the changing aspects of the matter led to the conclusions—

- (i) that it was desirable to continue the "C" Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of comparison of price movements on a clearly-defined basis;
- (ii) that it was impossible to reconstruct the "C" Series Index to take account of recurrent temporary departures from normal consumption.

Some other countries have pursued different courses with respect to their retail price index:—

In the United Kingdom the retail price index was kept on its 1914 base until 1947 when it was reconstructed as from 1st July, 1947, on a broader regimen weighted in accordance with the adjusted results of a pre-war (1937–38) survey of household budgets. The new index is not however comparable with the old and there is a break of continuity in retail price index series. In New Zealand the pre-war retail price index was retained until January, 1943, when it was replaced by a temporary war-time index. This latter has now been replaced by a new consumer retail price index as from March, 1949. Neither of these indexes is comparable with the other and there are two breaks of continuity in price index series.

# (b) The Degree of Accuracy with which the "C" Series Index Measured Changes in the Relevant Retail Price Level During the Years 1939-48.

Objective examination of this matter should have regard firstly to available facts and the official definition of the index. A conjectural approach has inherent defects since it is speculative. Because of the association of the index with wages, conjecture tends to concentrate on factors which might render the index "conservative" to the exclusion of some more or less obvious things which tend to make the index the reverse of "conservative". These more or less obvious things are referred to first in this memorandum because they have some definite factual basis. Considerations with opposite or mixed implications are then briefly mentioned. A great deal of space would be required to discuss the probabilities and possibilities of this very involved matter.

It is commonly accepted among statisticians that any retail price index with a fixed regimen tends to exaggerate the rise in prices over periods in which prices rise substantially and in which consumption shows marked changes. The reason is that, when possible, consumer buying transfers to goods whose prices rise least. There was some scope for the operation of this principle to affect the index in the past ten years. Moreover, from 1942 to 1948 rationing had the effect of substantially reducing consumption of major items such as clothing, household drapery, household utensils and beef whose prices had risen far more than the average rise of the index or section of the index to which they belonged.

In the course of investigations in 1943 a "trial" index was constructed by the Statistician taking into account those things readily susceptible of calculation. For this purpose use was made of a regimen in which items and weights of the "C" Series Index were approximately adjusted in accordance with ration scales and the more obvious war-time scarcities affecting items in the index. In this experiment the following adjustments were made:—

- (a) rice, sago, canned salmon, and all cuts of pork were omitted, since they were virtually unavailable to civilian consumers in 1943;
- (b) the weights for tea, sugar and butter were reduced by 20 per cent., roughly in proportion to the reduction enforced by the food ration scales;
- (c) the weights of dried and canned fruits were reduced by 25 per cent., cheese by 33.3 per cent., bacon by 50 per cent., and cuts of beef and sausages by 66.6 per cent. in accordance with the reduced quantities available to civilian consumers;
- (d) the weight for mutton, on the other hand, was increased by 25 per cent.;
- (e) the weight of the clothing group was reduced by 33.3 per cent., of household drapery and utensils by 50 per cent. and the allowance for smoking by 10 per cent. in accordance with rationed scales or estimated cuts in supplies.

The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued.

Section (G)—continued.

For purposes of illustration only, the "trial" index on this basis has now been calculated for September Quarter of each year 1939 to 1948 and compared with the "C" Series Index, taking the "C" Series figure of 933 in September Quarter, 1939 as base in both cases:—

Retail Price Indexes (Sydney).—"C" Series Index Compared with War-time "Trial" Index.

		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Septembe	r Quarter.	"C" Series Index.	War-time "Trial" Index.	Excess of (2) Over (3).	
939			 933	933		
940			 973	961	12	
941			 1027	1003	24	
942			 1122	1085	37	
943			 1154	1109	45	
944			 1146	1103	43	
945			 1142	IIOI	41	
946			 1167	1118	. 49	
947			 1218	1171	47	
948			 1337	1277	60	

The regimen and weights of the War-time "Trial" Index did not continue to be representative from 1939 to 1948 and the weights used were mere approximations. The "trial" index by itself had no validity except as indicating that, considering those particular war-time changes in isolation from all other war-time changes, the "C" Series Index might appear to exaggerate the rise in retail prices.

But there were many other war-time changes. For instance, scarcities and food rationing caused consumers to seek plentiful or unrationed foods. These may or may not have been intrinsically dearer. It is clear, however, that some unrationed foods, notably fruit and vegetables, had risen much more in price than had foods within the index. It was also evident at one stage for Sydney that consumption of bread, which was unrationed and which is included in the index, had increased and that its price had fallen slightly in consequence of zoning of deliveries. But these were only incidents in a very complicated situation. Many miscellanea not included in the index had shown varying price rises, sometimes less than the average of the index, sometimes more. In addition the price aspect of rents and of housing became complicated. After weighing these matters the Statistician concluded that for statistical purposes the "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights was sufficiently reliable in terms of the official definition, of the index, under the highly abnormal conditions of the times. If the Statistician had arrived at any other conclusion he would have published interpretative comment on the index and in either case the public, including the Court, employers and employees, would have been made aware thereof.

(6) Various aspects of the index were the subject of personal discussion between the Statistician and the A.C.T.U. Executive at the Trades Hall, Melbourne, in 1944 and the A.C.T.U. Congress at the Trades Hall, Sydney, in June, 1945. As Annexure (1) hereto shows, the following written statements given to the latter body set out the then conclusions of the Statistician:—

"The matter is too involved and indeterminate to warrant any very definite opinion except that if the "C" Series Index were reconstructed to reflect all measurable war-time changes the reconstructed index would probably show about the same degree of rise over the war years as does the "C" Series Index on its present regimen. I hope to be able to publish something on this a little later on". (See Annexure (1), page 181.)

# The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued.

Section (G)—continued.

Actually it was found impossible to publish any detailed or conclusive document because of the great array of matters that would have arisen capable only of conjectural answers. The general attitude of the Statistician was stated as follows to the A.C.T.U. Congress at that time:—

"The present index measures retail price changes on a clearly defined and specific basis. The index has been continued in use by the Court and the parties to basic wage proceedings with a full knowledge of what that basis is. It is quite competent for the parties to apply for and for the Court to approve some other basis. If that is done the Statistician will prepare the necessary data on the new basis". (See Annexure (1), page 179.)

# SECTION (H)—PRESENT POSITION IN REGARD TO INDEX.

(1) From the standpoint of the index it appeared early last year that the recurrent disturbances of the war period and of the post-war period were coming to an end and it was then thought that probably some time in 1949, consumption habits of the population would begin to settle down toward a post-war normal. In anticipation of this, action was instituted by the Statistician about the middle of 1948 to gather data upon which to base consideration of the nature and extent of any revision that might be needed in the index on a return to normal conditions. This action coincided with the virtual abolition of coupon rationing which now applies only to tea and butter.

(2) Specific measures taken by the Statistician, and the results, are briefly as follows:—

(a) As from April, 1948, when price control of lamb ended, monthly prices of lamb were regularly examined. The preliminary indication is that retail prices of lamb have varied in much the same way as those of mutton over the past year. The fact that prices of lamb are higher than those of mutton is not relevant to the measurement of price variations.

(b) As from September Quarter, 1948, prices were collected in respect of about 100 "extra" items, i.e., items not already included in the "C" Series Index. A list of these is attached hereto. (Annexure (2).)

The preliminary indication to March Quarter, 1940, is that, including prices of "extra" items, the food and groceries group would have risen less, and the clothing group more, than the corresponding group in the "C" Series Index. The net difference to date is not great and not significant either way, because of the shortness and abnormality of the period covered. Collection of prices of "extra" items is continuing.

(c) The scope of annual estimates of food consumption was enlarged. A report for 1947–48 has been published and from this it appears that there has evidently been a substantial rise in the consumption of milk and eggs. This and certain contra changes evident may have been due directly or indirectly to rationing. The report for 1948–49 when available will relate to a more normal period in regard to food consumption.

(d) Data were gathered as to quarterly production of certain major articles of clothing and footwear in 1947 and 1948, so far as available from departmental sources, and arrangements are in hand to continue these as a regular statistical collection where possible. It is as yet too early to indicate what lasting changes have occurred.

(e) A Census of 130,000 retail establishments was undertaken in September, 1948, partly to establish statistics of retail trade and partly to give a general indication of the relative magnitude of consumer expenditures on the main groups of items and on services, such as hairdressing, shoe repairs, &c. A copy of the form used is attached hereto marked "Annexure (3)". The tabulation of the results obtained is almost completed.

(j) Provision was made for a special analysis of data as to houses and rents gathered at the Census of 1947 and separate action taken to analyse rental data in respect of Governmental houses constructed in recent years both before and since the Census. Both investigations are continuing.

(3) Endeavours are being made to have the foregoing and other relevant information sufficiently complete for preliminary consideration by the Conference of Commonwealth and State Statisticians at the end of August, 1949. But such parts as are available will be produced to the Court if desired. At the present stage it is piecemeal in character.

The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued.

Section (H)—continued.

- (4) Consideration has been given by the Statistician to the collection of household budgets but it is evident that they would be abnormal at this stage and any such collection should be spread over a year. Under any conditions, measures of a special order will be needed to obtain enough reliable data from this source to be of practical use. It is possible that data referred to under 2(c), (d), (e) and (f) above, supplemented from other sources, will prove to be more serviceable than household budgets.
- (5) Over the past year analysis has been made of prices of grades and types of certain articles in the index, other than the grade or type customarily used as representative. Where necessary, prices of additional grades have been collected to ensure that the average prices used in the index for such articles are representative of the relevant buying range. Popular demand has latterly tended to shift to grades of goods superior to those purchased in pre-war years.
- (6) Various new factors have created new transitional difficulties in compiling the index in 1948–49 and the existence of these affects the timing of any projected revision of the index. The recent accelerating rise in prices raised the index (Six Capitals) by 27 points in 1946, 65 points in 1947, 120 points in 1948 and by 23 points in the March Quarter of 1949. This rapid rise is continuing and is characterized by an abnormal spread of prices of some goods formerly subsidized and of "old" stock and "new" stock of clothing. In order to keep the index representative, Field Officers have been instructed to collect prices on the basis of whatever stock of relevant standard appears to predominate in individual shops at the time of their collection. It was decided not to adhere wholly to old stocks or wholly to new stocks. Transitional price dispersion has appeared in a new form. Some items of food and groceries formerly stabilized have recently shown a substantial rise in price, more rapid than the rise in clothing and miscellaneous items. This is a reversal of war-time experience. The following comparison shows recent trends in broad outline:—

# "C" Series Retail Price Index (Six Capital Cities)—Percentage Rise in Group Aggregates. (June Quarter, 1948 to March Quarter, 1949.)

					Per cent.
Food and Groo				 	 10.7
Rents (4 and 5	-roome	d houses)		 	 0.2
Clothing				 	 7.5
Miscellaneous				 	 4.5
Aggrega	ate Incr	ease in Inc	dex	 	 6.7

The spread of individual prices is much wider than that of the group and this new and marked dispersion will almost inevitably react, at least temporarily, upon the disposition of consumer expenditures during 1949. It cannot be assumed that the position will not then change again.

Two other special instances may be mentioned:—Prices of fresh fruit and vegetables still show more than their usual abnormality but an approximate index indicates that, in Sydney, prices of vegetables were relatively lower in March Quarter, 1949 than a year previously. Rents of pre-war houses still show little or no variations because of controls. But the rentals of new houses built for letting since 1945 are on a substantially higher plane than those of comparable older houses. Although these are not yet sufficiently numerous to affect general averages very appreciably, the wide disparity creates an acute problem for solution in relation to rentals in the index.

(7) The present transitional period may be expected to last at all events for the next few quarters and to cause acute difficulties in collection of price data and construction of the index during 1949. This is inherent in prevailing conditions. The difficulties would be intensified by attempting to alter the basis or extend the coverage of the index at this present juncture. No form of revision of the index could make it possible to secure better average prices than those now obtained for those important items whose prices are dispersed over a wide range in neighbouring shops and sometimes within individual shops. Reliable and representative prices are of greater moment at this juncture than revision of the index, and attention is being concentrated on the problems of price collection.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Section (H)—continued.

- (8) The present needs and emergencies might be more fully met if additional trained staff could be obtained for extension of the work of price collection in the field. But it is unlikely that investigation by any other method could produce results reliably and promptly. For instance, an inquiry through sworn evidence of witnesses, however expedited, would probably produce information that would be out of date before it could be applied in practice. The time element is all important under rapidly changing conditions.
- (9) To date there is no reason to believe that the "C" Series Index is not reasonably reliable in total for its defined purpose and on its specific basis, despite the temporary abnormalities mentioned. Subject to careful consideration of any new matter arising before the Court the Statistician deems it advisable to continue the "C" Series Index on its present basis during 1949, concurrently recording prices of "extra" items and investigating the need for post-war revision of the index. But any computations or revisions which the Court may request in regard to the Court Index will be made. The Statistician is always prepared to supply any relevant information that is in his possession with respect to the "C" Series Index, as exemplified by the annexed copy of written answers given to questions asked by the A.C.T.U. Congress and its members in June, 1945.
- (10) This present memorandum is introductory in character. A very lengthy statement would be necessary to deal fully with the subjects set out herein and with the many statistical issues that are not mentioned. If desired, a further memorandum will be prepared on specified matters.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-continued.

ANNEXURE (I).

REPLIES BY ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY DELEGATES, A.C.T.U. CONGRESS, SYDNEY, JUNE, 1945.

(N.B.—These answers are reprinted exactly as originally given, except for minor verbal changes in a few places. These changes are indicated by a light line drawn through the word or words originally used and the substitution in brackets after such word of the amendment now made. These minor amendments are intended to avoid ambiguity or misconception in the answers originally prepared.)

Question (1).—Mr. Clarey's request for a general statement as to  $Fruit\ and\ Vegetables$  in relation to the index.

Answer.—Fresh fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) are excluded from the regimen of the "C" Series Retail Price Index because—

- (a) it has been well-nigh impossible to obtain accurate comparable average prices for them;
- (b) relatively few items of fresh fruit and vegetables are obtainable at any one place throughout the year and still fewer are obtainable throughout the year throughout Australia;
- (c) even in normal times supplies and prices of fresh fruit and vegetables fluctuate up and down so very widely and so very rapidly that their aggregate variation can be measured only approximately;
- (d) comprehensive information as to prices of these items over a term of years has not been collected anywhere in Australia (so far as I am aware) except for Sydney and for one retail market in Melbourne.

The foregoing reasons have hitherto rendered it impracticable, and undesirable from the purely statistical angle, to include fresh fruit and vegetables in the index.

But such statistical considerations are not a barrier to the collection of prices and the compilation of an approximate index of prices of fruit and vegetables. Last year I compiled a monthly index of retail prices of vegetables for Sydney (1938–1944) and this will be published as soon as I am satisfied that it contains no serious remediable defect. The same applies to a less comprehensive index as to fruit and vegetables for one retail market in Melbourne. More recently Mr. Lindsay, Research Officer of the Labour Council, Sydney, has compiled an index of wholesale prices of fruit and vegetables, Sydney. The techniques employed by these indexes (in an attempt to solve the problems of price measurement peculiar to fruit and vegetables) differ from the technique of the "C" Series. Each of the three indexes has a special experimental technique of its own. The results are expressed in monthly (or quarterly) averages on the basis of corresponding month (or quarter) and they could not in their present form be incorporated directly into the "C" Series Index to form one composite index.

The position then is-

- (i) that certain approximate data are available as to the course of prices of fruit and vegetables for recent years;
- (ii) that the Statistician cannot of his own initiative make any (this major) adjustment to the "C" Series Index as used by Courts for wage adjustment;
- (iii) that if the unions or any authority desires variation in prices of fruit and vegetables to be taken into account in adjusting wages for price variations, they can apply to the Court, when the Statistician will doubtless be asked to produce data and the Court will decide upon a basis (the question).

I should add that, although it is likely to be impossible to effect the same type of automatic quarterly adjustments for fruit and vegetables as is effected for items in the "C" Series Index, I see no reason why some periodical system of adjustment cannot be devised in respect of variations in prices of fruit and vegetables. The Court could (for instance) do this, on data produced by the Statistician, at chosen intervals by making a special allowance when converting "C" Series into Court Series Index. If such a course is adopted, it would then be necessary to arrange for prices of fruit and vegetables to be compiled regularly throughout Australia. This could be done if the Government authorized me to engage one additional Field Officer in each State for the purpose.

Since 1942 retail prices of fresh fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) have risen considerably more in price than the average rise of items in the "C" Series Index. For places for which I have data this rise has fluctuated seasonally between

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-continued.

Annexure (1)—continued.

50 per cent. and 200 per cent. It may be true that over the whole period the rise in prices of fruit and vegetables has averaged 100 per cent. Assessment of the degree of rise depends on assessment of pre-war normal. I have no firm opinion on the matter and it is not capable of exact statistical measurement. It is, however, well worthy of further examination.

I agree with the contention that if fruit and vegetables could have been included in the "C" Series Retail Price Index, the resultant index (with pre-war weights and regimen) would have shown a greater war-time rise than does the index in its present form.

It is necessary to add that this war-time rise in this important item, which is not included in the index, is only one of a number of major war-time changes affecting the index. The present index measures retail price changes on a clearly defined and specific basis. The index has been continued in use by the Court and the parties to basic wage proceedings with a full knowledge of what that basis is. It is quite competent for the parties to apply for and for the Court to approve some other basis. If that is done the Statistician will prepare the necessary data on the new basis.

[(a) Note.—This matter was further referred to in Section G of the Statistician's memorandum of June, 1949, tendered as evidence before the Commonwealth Arbitration Court and reprinted herein. It was also mentioned in the Judgment of Dunphy J. on 12th October, 1951, the relevant extract from which is included herein.]

Question (2).—Mr. Clarey's request for a general statement as to Rents.

Answer.—(a) It has long been the practice, for retail price index purposes, to take fluctuations in rents of 4 and 5 roomed houses as indicative of the fluctuations in cost of housing in the price sense.

In pre-war years I think that this was generally accepted without serious question. But during the past few years of acute house shortage, conditions have altered. It is believed that (notwithstanding rent controls) rents of flats, rooms, &c., have risen more

If it is desired to have a wider coverage than house rents to represent housing in the index, it would be desirable to embrace not only fluctuations in rents of houses, flats and rooms but also fluctuations in weekly payments (exclusive of principal but inclusive of rates, taxes, repairs, &c.) of instalment purchase houses which are a substantial proportion of all houses.

Additional officers would be required to collect the data in respect of housing other than rented houses, but it could be done. The Arbitration Court would decide which index it would use in the event of there being any difference.

(b) There are two separate figures as to rents compiled by the Statistician:—(i) the "average rent" published quarterly;

(ii) average of rents actually paid as shown by a Census.

(i) The "average rent" published quarterly is not necessarily the average rent actually paid for all occupied houses of 4 and 5 rooms. In 1933  $\ddagger$  was, because  $\ddagger$  (such an actual average rent) was derived from a census of all houses. Since 1933 it has been increased only in proportion to the rise in rents of a representative sample of houses taking into account the same houses from quarter to quarter. New houses are brought into the sample from time to time but only in respect of fluctuations in their rent subsequent to their introduction into the sample. The "average rent" as published therefore is intended to represent the average rent actually paid for relevant houses in 1933 plus the "price" element of subsequent increase in rents. Where there has been an appreciable proportion of new houses (built since 1933) let at weekly rents higher than the average of the sample houses, a Census would show that the average of rents now actually paid for all houses is higher than the "average rents" published quarterly by the Statistician. The reason is that the "average rent" as published quarterly is really a price index of rents (expressed in pence) and does not purport to be an average of all rents paid for relevant houses. Its purpose is to show the trend of rents of substantially constant average "quality" houses; it excludes rises in average weekly rents actually paid where such rises are due to a rise in standard or quality of housing. Only changes in rents in the "price" sense are relevant to the price index. It is a matter for the Court to determine the amount (question) of adjustment to be made in wages on account of a rise in rents actually being paid.

The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued.

Annexure (1)—continued.

Question (2)—Rents—continued.

(ii) The "average of rents actually paid" at the present time could only be determined authoritatively at the census of houses and the war has delayed the normal Census. Endeavour has been made, without success, to arrange a quasi-Census. Consideration is now being given to a test by sampling but the matter presents acute difficulties and the method may not be entirely reliable.

The contention that "the rent in the index is too low" is based on the mistaken belief that the average used by the Statistician is also used by the Court in determining the amount of basic wage. In fact only the *fluctuations* in the rents recorded by the Statistician affect the basic wage and those fluctuations only affect the automatic adjustments based on the index. For example, the "average rent" as published for Sydney over a period of years has risen from 20s. to about 24s. per week. It would have made no appreciable difference to the basic wage if it had risen from 25s. to 30s. over that period. The proportionate rise is the same in both cases (20 per cent.).

It is recognized, however, that information as to the exact rise in average of all (relevant) house rents actually paid is of considerable importance and up-to-date information will be obtained as soon as it is possible to secure authority for a Census or quasi-Census.

[(b) Note.—A considerable volume of data as to rents actually being paid was collected at the Census of 1947 and the factual background of the position was set out in the memorandum presented in evidence by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician in 1949 and reprinted herein.]

Question (3).—Mr. T. Wright, Room 70, Trades Hall, Sydney.

Question (a).—Isn't it a fact that the prices of fruit and vegetables which are excluded from the index, have risen more than the regimen items, and that this factor if considered alone tends to depreciate the purchasing power of the workers' wage? Does the exclusion of fresh fish have the same effect?

Answer.—Prices of fruit, vegetables and fish excluded from the index have, since 1942, risen more in price than items in the index.

This is one of several special war-time factors temporarily affecting the index as a measure of retail price variations under war conditions and I think it unsound to consider the effect of only one such factor in appraising the purchasing power of wages in war-time.

Question (b).—It has been claimed that the fact that fresh fruit and vegetables, which have risen greatly in price, are excluded from the index is balanced by the fact that clothing is over-weighted in the index, due to its weight not being reduced in accordance with rationing.

Do you claim that the purchasing power of the basic wage, therefore, remains constant? And that, therefore, the reduced amount of clothing now bought is offset by increased purchases of other consumption goods, or increased saving by the basic wage-earner?

Answer.—I have not expressed any opinion as to whether the purchasing power of the basic wage has remained constant in war-time. A "parity" wage has been calculated by applying the "C" Series Index to basic wages of some earlier years. This, however, must be read in the light of the fact that the "C" Series Index has been maintained on its pre-war regimen with pre-war weights. Its "weights" do not take into account marked changes in consumption occasioned by rationing and scarcities nor the abnormal spread of prices of goods not included in the index.

I do not claim that the purchasing power of the basic wage has remained constant over the war period. Having regard to the pronounced and frequent variations in supplies of goods available and the very marked dispersion of prices, I think it impossible for anybody to determine that matter conclusively.

The matter is further complicated by substitutions of available goods for those unavailable or scarce, but I think that very broadly the upshot has been along the lines indicated in the final part of your question.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Annexure (1)—continued.

Question (3) Mr. T. Wright—continued.

The matter is too involved and indeterminate to warrant any very definite opinion except that if the "C" Series were reconstructed to reflect all measurable war-time changes the reconstructed index would probably show about the same degree of rise over the war years as does the "C" Series Index on its present regimen. I hope to be able to publish something on this a little later on.

[(c) NOTE.—This matter was subsequently examined and the factual background of the position was set out in the memorandum presented in evidence by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician in 1949 and reprinted herein.]

Question (c).—Isn't it a fact that many people are forced to board and live in rooms and furnished rooms and pay more than the pegged rents? Isn't it a fact that this is not taken into account in making basic wage adjustment?

Answer.—I do not know the facts as to the first part of the question. Rates charged for board and lodging are not reflected in the "C" Series Index. If adjustment to the basic wage is desired on the grounds indicated it would be necessary to get an assessment made by the Court on evidence adduced. It would be impossible now to collect retrospective data for index purposes.

Question (d).—From how many agents and in how many and what localities do you get rent quotes? Are the agents' figures checked by visits to houses from time to time? Could you publish these rent figures according to localities?

Answer.—In Sydney data as to rents are obtained from 25 representative agents covering practically all suburbs. I have not got corresponding information in Sydney for other capitals but can supply it from Canberra if desired. Agents' figures are checked every quarter by personal visit of the Field Officer to the agent and when deemed necessary by visits to houses.

It would be a heavy task to dissect into suburban localities the thousands of rentals collected by capital cities and the 24 towns.

Question (e).—Doesn't the purchasing power of the basic wage fall because of the fact that the prosperity loading of 6s. given by the Court in 1937 is not adjusted to the price rises since then?

Answer.—The purchasing power of the 6s. prosperity loading is now less than it was when granted in 1937. The Court then made it non-adjustable.

Question (f).—Have not flats, which are not included in 4 and 5-roomed houses, risen in rent more than your 4 and 5-roomed houses in the last few years? Doesn't the fact that the average rent, of your 4 and 5-roomed houses in Sydney, is only 24s., indicate that these are older houses in the main? Haven't the rents of newer houses and flats increased by more than the older type of house over years because of the deterioration of the latter, and of the deterioration as residential areas of the suburbs in which they exist?

Answer.—I do not know the facts as to the rentals of flats. The fact that the "average rent" as published for 4 and 5-roomed houses in Sydney is approximately 24s. per week does not indicate that it includes older houses in the main. Rentals are obtained from a due proportion of new houses for purposes of measuring fluctuations in rents. The actual average rent of the houses for which rents are recorded is considerably higher than 24s. and I can supply this on my return to Canberra if desired. The figure of 24s. is not the actual average of all rents paid for houses of 4 and 5 rooms. It is probably less than that average. See answer herewith given to question on rents by Mr. Clarey. If the rents of new houses have increased more than the rents of older houses, the fact would be reflected in our sample of houses. There are, however, some very involved problems in this connexion and I shall be glad if you would write to me as to the points you have in mind.

Question (4).—Mr. E. Thornton.

Question (a).—Is it true that the "C" Series Retail Price Index was not constructed with the purpose of adjusting wages and the Court uses this index as a matter of expediency as no "cost of living" index is compiled by any authority and no different retail price index is available?

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Annexure (1)—continued.

Question (4) Mr. E. Thornton—continued.

Answer.—The "C" Series Index was constructed in 1921 (as the result of a recommendation by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920) to provide a more suitable instrument than was then available for periodical adjustment of the basic wage for price changes.

The Court adopted the "C" Series for wage adjustment purposes by deliberate judgment in 1934. At that time the old "A" Series Index (food, groceries and rent) was showing a steeper decline than the "All Items" C Series Index. The Court required a price index, not an index that would measure both changes in price and changes in standard of living. I do not see how any one quarterly index could measure both of those changes.

The Court's practice is to consider (every three years or so) evidence of change in cost of living due to change in standard of living. It does not rely on the index in this connexion since it uses the index only as a price index.

Two retail prices indexes are at present available—the " B " Series and the " C " Series. Others could be compiled if required.

Question (b).—To what extent has the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration directed that alterations be made to the regimen upon which the "C" series retail price index is based?

Answer.—The Court has not at any time directed that any alterations be made in the regimen of the "C" Series Index nor in its method of construction. My impression is that the Court would not move in the matter without hearing representatives of employers and employees, and probably only then on an application made by either employers or employees.

Question (5).—Mr. M. H. Bray, F.E.D. & F.A.

Question (a).—Why is it that items such as fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh fish, small goods, confectionery, hairdressing, &c., are excluded when the index is being fixed, as workers and their families consider that these items are necessary for inclusion, as quite a percentage of their wages are used in the purchase of these excluded items and are required for people to keep free from sickness, especially in the case of fruit, vegetables and fish?

Answer.—As to fresh fruit and vegetables see answer to Chairman's question. As to fresh fish, the difficulties are much the same (though less in degree).

As to small goods, confectionery and other minor commodities, expenditure on these items is small in relation to the total expenditure on all items in the index. Inclusion of them would make no significant difference to the rise and fall of the index unless their prices rose or fell very much more than the rise and fall in prices of the major items which are in the index. Investigation over the war period shows that prices of these minor excluded items taken together varied in much the same degree as the prices of items in the index. To include them might have psychological value but it would make very little if any practical difference to the trend of the index.

I see no reason why hairdressing should not be included if desired.

The fact that minor items are not included in the index does not mean that the basic wage does not include provision for them. Neither the regimen of the index nor the cost of items in it affect the amount of basic wage fixed by the Court.

As explained orally, the index must be compiled within two weeks of the end of the quarter to which it relates in order that wages may be adjusted promptly for price changes. Any large addition to the number of minor items in the index would tend to delay the index.

 $\mathit{Question}\,(b).$  —What steps would be necessary to have them included in the preparation of the index ?

Answer.—I would suggest that, before any proposal is made to include additional items in the index, representatives of the A.C.T.U. confer with the Statistician and his officers; that they then decide what additional items they desire to be included and make an application to the Court seeking its concurrence. The Statistician can prepare any index that is practicable and is desired, but the Court alone decides what index (if any) it will use for automatic wage adjustment.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Annexure (1)—continued.

Question (6).—Mr. W. H. Turner.

Question (a).—Whilst it is recognized that the Index is a "price" index rather than a "cost of living" index, is it known to the Statistician's Office that it is used by the Court as the latter?

Answer.—No. The Court refers to the index as a "cost of living" index and to automatic wage adjustments based on the index as "cost of living variations". But it uses the phrase in the narrow sense of "price" and, in fact, applies the index as a price index and not as a "cost of living" index. If it is felt that there is doubt about this, I am prepared to give evidence if called.

Question (b).—Prices are based on "mass" usage rather than on "family" usage. (Thus, when, on one occasion, potatoes fell from £10 to £2 per ton a reduction of 2s. was made in the basic wage, when the average family did not use 2s. worth of potatoes.)

Had the Statistician ever considered putting out an alternative Index on a "family" usage basis; or would they be prepared to so consider?

Answer.—I think that this refers to something reported in the Melbourne press about ten years ago. I will look up the facts and advise Mr. Turner. A fall from £10 to £2 in price of potatoes alone would not cause a fall of 2s. in the wage. Until the retail price of potatoes was stabilized in 1943, their wide fluctuations caused erratic and possibly disproportionate ups and downs in the index. Although this worked both ways (rise and fall) it was vexatious.

In a sense the index at present is on a family wage basis—at least in part. If Mr. Turner will send me an outline of his suggestion I will be glad to consider it and advise him.

Question (7).—Mr. J. Comerford (Northern Miners).

Question.—What is the effect of overseas price factors upon the index?

Answer.—Oversea prices affect the index in two ways (a) through fluctuations of prices of imported goods and materials—for example, tea, kerosene, cotton and artificial silk goods and tobacco: (b) through fluctuations in oversea prices of goods and materials largely exported—for example, flour, butter, meat, wool. At present the government modifies fluctuations in prices of imported goods and materials by subsidies and of exported goods by "home consumption prices" and stabilized prices. I cannot tell the exact effect of oversea prices on the index, but if Mr. Comerford cares to write and explain his question fully I will endeavour to supply the information.

Question (8).—Mr. Scott (Engine Drivers' Union).

Question.—Is the Statistician at liberty to disclose where his figures on a particular commodity price have been secured and, if not, why not?

Answer.—The Commonwealth Census and Statistics Act forbids the Statistician and his officers to divulge any of the contents of any individual return supplied to him. This applies to returns of all kinds obtained under the Act and includes the names of individual persons from whom particular returns are obtained. The Act recognizes the right of the individual to privacy as regards his personal and business affairs.

In order that the prices collected and the index may be truly representative of price changes, it is necessary that traders from whom returns are obtained be in exactly the same circumstances as other traders. If their names were known they might be subjected to special individual surveillance (either officially or by other employers or employees). In that case they would cease to be truly representative. Traders who supply returns must be safeguarded against risk of anything savouring of victimization.

The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued.

Anuexure (1) continued.

Question (9).—Mr. Callard (Clothing and Allied Trades).

Question.—Does your department take into consideration the quality of goods in war time, that is, the poor quality of materials (cotton and woollens) imported and locally made? These materials are being made into shirts, underclothing and male and female outer garments. The lack of skilled operatives, the using of green labour, the greater amount of work given outdoor, and the lack of skilled supervision, are responsible for the garments wearing out quicker. Lack of good craftsmanship causes garments to fall to pieces quicker, and get out of shape. There is also lack of decent standards of sizes.

Answer.—The retail prices used in the index are those of a specified standard of quality verified where necessary, by means of actual samples. These "standards" relate to typical goods in general demand. As explained in answer to question 10 herewith, trained Field Officers actually examine the goods in the shops every quarter and verify price and quality.

During the war period supplies of raw materials and garments have been very erratic and qualities, make, &c., abnormally variable. This has compelled us to change our "typical" garment with unusual frequency. When this happens the "new" garment selected is as near as possible to the original and is used subsequently to measure price variations. Special precautions are taken to ensure that price variation (allowing for quality, &c.) is fully recorded.

Supervising Field Officers regularly visit manufacturers, wholesalers and others, as well as retailers, to ensure that they get the full facts to enable them to collect prices which take into account quality, make, &c. The task is extremely difficult but I am satisfied thay they have done it very well.

Question (10).—Questioner's name not given.

 $Question\ (a)$ .—Is there any reason why the names of firms from whom the prices are received should not be disclosed and reported in the press?

Answer.—See answer to Question No. 8 asked by Mr. Scott, Engine Drivers' Union (copy herewith).

It would be quite impossible to get accurate and representative information for a retail price index if the names of individual traders were published. The average prices are either published in official statistical publications or are available on request.

 $Question\ (b)$ .—Are the prices of Groceries secured from chain stores, such as "Crofts" and are these prices obtained at the end of month, when certain bargain lines are in operation?

Answer.—A due proportion of prices are obtained from chain stores. They are usually obtained at the middle of the month. "Bargain" prices, "sale" or "clearance" prices and "draw" lines are not included in the price averages on which the index is based.

 $\mathit{Question}$  (c).—Is there an Investigating Officer to secure the prices from the shops concerned direct ?

Answer.—The Field Officer personally collects each quarter the prices of Clothing, Household Drapery and Household Utensils. He examines these goods in the shop. Each quarter he visits house agents and verifies rents. At intervals as required he checks prices of Groceries, Dairy Produce and Meat.

At intervals one of the Supervising Field Officers accompanies the Field Officer to check his work and to ensure that the collection is being made on uniform lines throughout Australia. This system of double checking is followed to ensure absolute accuracy.

Field Officers are men specially selected for their trade knowledge and fitness. They are also given training for this work.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-continued.

ANNEXURE (2).

## RETAIL PRICES.

List of "Extra" Items Collection of which was Instituted in September QUARTER, 1948.

(N.B.—This list has been reviewed at intervals since 1948 and some items have been deleted whilst others have been added.)

Section A.—Groceries—

Prepared Breakfast Foods—

From Maize. From Wheat.

Coffee Essence.

Cocoa. Pineapple, Canned.

Prunes, Dried, Loose. Apples, Dried, Loose. Dates, Pitted, Bulk.

Beans, Baked. Peas, Green, Canned. Cauliflower, Canned. Haricot Beans, Loose.

Peas, Blue, Boiling. Custard Powder.

Jelly Crystals. Biscuits, Loose-Ginger Nuts.

Milk Arrowroot.

Dry. Honey, Liquid.

Pickles-Mustard.

Onions, White. Sauce, Tomato.

Spaghetti, in Tomato. Sandwich Spreads.

Sardines.

Sheeps Tongues, Tinned.

Soap-Toilet

Powder. Starch, Rice.

Cleaner. Steel Wool.

Matches, Safety. Boot Polish.

Clothes Pegs, Loose. Toilet Paper.

Lemonade. Ale.

Fish, Dried-

Barracoutta, Whole. Mullet, Split.

Tailer, Split.

Blue Cod (New Zealand).

Fish, Fresh-Flathead. Bream. Whiting.

Leatherjacket.

Section B.—Dairy Produce— Cheese, Processed. Margarine, Cooking, Bulk.

Rabbit.

Section B.—Dairy Produce—continued.

Frankfurts. Devon Sausage. Ham Delight. Milk, Powdered, Full Cream.

Section E.—Clothing—Man—

Coat, Sports, Worsted, Ready-made. Trousers, Sports, Worsted, Ready-made. Singlet, Flannel, All Wool. Overall, Cotton Drill, Combination.

Rug, Travelling, Wool, 60 inches x 80 inches. Shoe Repairs, Half-soled and Heeled-

(a) Sewn. (b) Rivetted.

 $Section \ F.--Clothing--Woman--$ 

Overcoat, Woollen Tweed.

Raincoat. Corsets.

Umbrella, Cotton Covered. Piece Goods (Frockings)—

Rayon (Floral). Cotton (Floral). Wool (Plain). Wool, Fingering.

Shoe Repairs—Half-soled and Heeled—

(a) Pump. (b) Welt.

Section G--Clothing-Boy-

Coat, Rain. Hat, Wool Felt. Shoe Repairs—Half-soled and Heeled—

(a) Sewn. (b) Rivetted.

Section H.—Clothing—Girl—

Blazer, All Wool, Flannel. Dressing Gown, Wool.

Piece Goods-

Wool and Cotton Fabrics.

Section K.—Household Drapery—

Pillow, Kapok. Linoleum. Carpet (Runner).

Section L.—Household Utensils—

Baking Dish, Tin. Cake Tin, Aluminium.

## THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

## ANNEXURE (2)—continued.

Section L.—Household Utensils—continued. Section N.—Other Miscellaneous—

Frying Pan, Aluminium. Mixing Bowl, Earthenware.

Pie Dish, Enamel. Boiler, Aluminium. Toaster, Electric.

Spade. Digging Fork.

Rake. Hoe, Chipping.

Axe.

Shaving Scap, Stick (Refill). Tooth Paste.

Razor Blades. Medicines-

Cough Mixture.

Patent Tonic Medicines.

A.P.C. Powders.

Cascara Evac., Sweetened

Ointment. Antiseptic. Baby Food.

THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—continued.

Annexure (3).

# RETURN OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

No.....

This return is being collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905–1946 and you are required to supply the particulars specified herein. Information supplied in individual returns is Confidential for Statistical Purposes only and will not be disclosed to any person or to any other Government authority.

Please answer all questions carefully and Post Your Completed Return in the enclosed post-free envelope by 31st August, if possible but not later than 15th September, 1948.

S. R. CARVER,
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS.	What is the Usual Description of your business? (For example "Grocer" or other applicable term.)
	9
	Trading Name
Full Name and Ad Place of Busine	dress of Street and Number
race of busine	Town or Suburb
Telephone Number.	Name of Local Government Area in which business is situated
Do you normally sel goods at wholesale YES or No	branches in Australia, please state Name and Address of

(A separate return is required for each branch.)

TOTAL RETAIL SALES AND OTHER TAKINGS for year ended 30th June, 1948.

Please state on left-hand side below the amount of your total sales of goods at retail for the year ended 30th June, 1948, sub-divided under the headings shown. Show separately on right-hand side below amount of other takings. Where actual figures are not available careful estimates will suffice.

If you were not in business for the full year, please state number of months you were in business and give figures for that period.....months.

# The "C" Series Retail Price Index—continued. Annexure (3)—continued.

Retail Sales of Goods.	Other Takings (if any).			
Groceries (see footnote) (1) Confectionery, Ice Cream and Soft Drinks (2) Other types of Food (3) Clothing, Drapery, Footwear, Manchester, Soft Furnishings, &c (4) Hardware, Ironmongery, China and Glassware . (5) Furniture and Floor Coverings (6) Newspapers, Books and Stationery (7) Motor Vehicles, Parts, Tyres, Tubes, Accessories, Petrol, &c (8)	From— Wholesale Sales of Goods (10) Hairdressing (11) Repair Work Done (12) Meals and Accommodation (13) Other Takings (such as commission, hiring, dry cleaning, &c.) (14)  Total of Other Takings (ii)			
Other Goods not specified above (9)  Total Retail Sales of Goods (i)	 Total Takings ((i) and (ii))			

Include all retail sales of to bacco, cigarettes, beer, wine and spirits under "  $\mbox{Other}$  Goods ".

	Signature of Proprietor	
Proprietor's Name	or Manager.	

SECTION V.—continued.

THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS.

SUBMISSIONS MADE BY
MR. W. A. BAKER TO THE COMMONWEALTH
COURT OF CONCILIATION AND
ARBITRATION.

JULY, 1949.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ADJUSTMENT OF BASIC WAGE.

SECTION A.

Propriety of Adjusting Wages by Means of a Price Index.

In principle the "C" Series Retail Price Index is similar to other indexes which "are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While it may be used as indicating proportionate variations it does not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, it measures as nearly as may be the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index."

It is most important to fully appreciate that a price index does not measure the cost of changes in the standard of living and is actually designed to exclude the cost of

any variations in the standard of living.

Such an index is not a suitable means by which to periodically adjust wages. Any periodical adjustment of wages should take into account availability of items entering into household budgets as well as increased costs due to improved standards because of legislation, local government requirements, the pressure of public opinion, or any other factor.

This submission can be most easily understood by considering two or three actual

items which are included in the "C" Series Index.

(1) Rent.—The "C" Series Index endeavours to measure variations in the price of a standard quantum of accommodation. The actual method followed is for house agents to make returns to the Commonwealth Statistician showing the weekly rental of a large number of individual houses, each of which is selected by a field officer attached to the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics as suitable for inclusion in a sample "designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals".

However, the standard of accommodation measured varies from State to State and city to city, e.g., the greater proportion of cottages selected in Queensland is timber-framed, while in other States such as South Australia, by far the greater proportion is brick. By these means, changes in rentals in varying standards of accommodation

are measured.

From time to time, houses are deleted from the index because of deterioration in the standard of accommodation they provide, and new houses are added. However, no variation is shown in the index when new houses are added until the rental of such new houses is increased. If the whole of the slum areas in Australia were demolished and cottages of reasonable standards of accommodation built in their place, the rentals of such new cottages being, say, three or four times the rental of the demolished slum cottages, no variation would be reflected in the price index until there was an alteration in the rental of the new dwellings.

Furthermore, all dwellings, because of deterioration, provide a progressively lower standard of accommodation and when necessary repairs are not made by landlords (a condition which has been very prevalent for a number of reasons during and since the war), this deterioration is accelerated. It is practically impossible for any price index to take this factor into account and the "C" Series Index, at least over the last ten years, has measured the variation in rental of a progressively lower standard of

accommodation, the standard varying in different areas throughout Australia.

It is a reasonable assumption that the only cottages built for rental since the end of the war have been those built by the government housing authorities in the various States. In some States at least, these cottages are offered to tenants for purchase, and because of this fact the Statistician has not included, for the purpose of measuring rental increases, any cottage built since the end of the war. According to the information supplied by the Housing Division, Department of Works and Housing, Canberra, it is estimated that almost 160,000 dwellings have been completed since the end of the war, amounting to approximately one-twelfth of our stock of houses. These dwellings provide, on the average, a better standard of accommodation than dwellings included in the index. They are almost the only dwellings available for rental at the present time, and the rentals are substantially higher than rentals of dwellings built pre-war.

The Court should take into account these higher rentals in adjusting the Basic Wage, notwithstanding the fact that the standard of accommodation provided may be higher

than average.

Further, for the purpose of the "C" Series Index, the Statistician only takes into consideration 4 and 5-roomed, unfurnished cottages, but the 1947 Census showed that there were in Australia, 106,431 flats and 39,697 tenements. Numerous cottages are rented furnished. As the Statistician mentions in his statement to the Court (Annexure (1), page 3\*) it is believed that the rentals of flats, tenements and furnished accommodation have increased since the pre-war period to a greater extent than unfurnished 4 and 5-roomed cottages.

<sup>\*</sup> The statement is reprinted on page 179 of this Labour Report.

THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS—continued. Section A—continued.

Dwellings built since the war by government authorities together with flats and tenements existent at the time of the Census amount to approximately  $15~{\rm per}$  cent. of the dwellings in Australia and it is submitted that both these categories of dwellings

should be taken into account when adjustments are made to the Basic Wage.

More detailed and quantitative submissions will be made to the Court when further information concerning rentals is available from the Commonwealth Statistician, but it is submitted that there is enough evidence presented to show that the "C" Series Rent Index is not an appropriate nor just index by which to adjust the Basic Wage, irrespective of its suitability for other statistical purposes. Consequently, a separate rent index based upon the actual average rents of all accommodation occupied by wage earners should be the basis upon which the Basic Wage is adjusted.

(2) Fares.—The Statistician endeavours in the "C" Series Index to take into

account the variations in price of a constant quantum of travel. No suggestion is made that price variations of such a constant quantum have not been measured as accurately as possible. However, in an economy such as Australia, where urbanization has been progressing rapidly and consequently the quantum of travel necessary is constantly increasing, an index of price variation is not suitable for wage adjustment purposes. Account should be taken by the Court of the increased quantum of travel necessary

from time to time.

(3) Smoking.—For purposes of adjusting the cost of smoking, the Commonwealth Statistician obtains price data with respect to tobacco, cigarettes and cigarette papers. The prices for tobacco and cigarettes relate to brands made in Australia and do not include

prices of imported cigarettes or imported manufactured tobacco.

The quantity of Australian manufactured cigarettes and tobacco is not sufficient to meet the demands of wage earners and they are forced to purchase imported brands at a considerably higher price and lower quality than the local article. In this case, the prices index, by measuring variations in cost of a standard quantum of smoking-requisites of a given quality, under-estimates actual price increases paid and makes no allowance for the poorer quality available and actually purchased.

Conclusion.—The quality or standard of conditions available and the quantum of

commodities necessary are important factors affecting the purchasing power of wage

earners.

Irrespective of the reasons for alteration in these factors, the Basic Wage should be adjusted by an index which measures increases in cost because of such factors. Undoubtedly, at present, rent is the most important item of wage-earners' expenditure to be considered from this aspect, but other similar cases will arise from time to time and in each case it will be desirable to adopt a different procedure in adjusting wages to that adopted by the Statistician in compiling his index of retail prices. The Court Series Index should take into account these factors and cease to be an arithmetical conversion of the "C" Series Index.

## SECTION B.

Submissions Concerning the "C" Series Index as a Price Index.

(1) In periods when there is a minimum of price dispersion, it is probably true that the "C" Series Index in the price sense reflects as accurately as possible the variations in prices of commodities which enter into the expenditure of wage-earner households. There are, however, important omissions of items which figure in wage-earner budgets. An indication of some of these is given in Annexure (2) to the document submitted by the Commonwealth Statistician to the Court. In periods of wide price dispersion these omissions become most important. The omission which has most seriously affected the index is fruit and vegetables. The Statistician in Section (G) of his document analyses the "C" Series Index in the period 1939 to 1948, the greater part of this period being one of wide price dispersion. His conclusions are as follows:

(a) "That it was desirable to continue the 'C' Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of comparison of price

movements on a clearly defined basis.'

(b) "That it was impossible to reconstruct the 'C' Series Index to take account of current temporary departures from normal consumption.

(c) That for statistical purposes the "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights was "sufficiently reliable in terms of the official definition of the index under the highly abnormal conditions of the times".

THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS—continued. Section B-continued.

There can be no quarrel with the Statistician with respect to conclusions (a) and (b), but it is poor consolation for the wage-earner whose wages have not been adjusted upwards merely to be told that it is desirable to preserve the continuity of the "C" Series Index and that it is impossible to re-construct the index to take into account temporary departures from normal conditions.

The Statistician, in his memorandum, presented to the Court, does not provide evidence which can lead to conclusion (c). Apparently this conclusion is based upon the difference between the "C" Series Index as compared with the war-time trial index, together with the expression of opinion that items not covered by the "C" Series have. on the average, increased in price only to the degree which off-sets the re-weighting in

the trial index and no more. This assumption is examined in the following paragraphs.

The war-time Trial Index which the Statistician publishes for the years 1939 to 1948 inclusive is based upon the re-weighting of the various items covered by the "C" Series regimen. The index shows an increase from 933 in 1939 to 1277 in 1948, or an increase of 37 per cent. as compared with the "C" Series Index which showed an increase from 933 in 1939 to 1337 in 1948, or an increase of 43 per cent. The Needs Basic Wage for the six capital cities in September, 1939, was 73s., so that the 6 per cent. difference between the increase as shown by the Trial and "C" Series Indexes amounts to 4s.

The Statistician mentions that some unrationed foodstuffs, notably fruit and vegetables, have risen much more in price than have foods covered by the index. An experimental Prices Index (copy attached) supplied by the Commonwealth Statistician, shows that the prices of vegetables for the year 1947 were, on the average, 73 per cent. more than the prices for the corresponding weeks in the years 1938 to 1940, and by 1948 the average increase in prices, as compared with the same base period, was 129 per cent. While accurate information is not available, it is reasonable to assume that the price of fruit increased at least to the same degree as shown by the Statistician for vegetables.

If, in 1939, the amount of 5s. was spent by wage-earners on fruit and vegetables, then in the year 1948, price increases in these items alone would be more than sufficient to

offset the 4s. difference which would have resulted had the Basic Wage been adjusted by the war-time Trial Index instead of by the "C" Series Index.

Other prices, not covered by the "C" Series Index, also increased to a greater extent than the items in the regimen. Sufficient has been submitted in Section A with reference to rents, to show that rental increases have been underestimated in the index. While the information necessary for a quantitative analysis is unfortunately not available, at least a prima facie case in support of this statement is made out in Section A of this

(2) On page 15\* of his statement the Commonwealth Statistician states "It is commonly accepted among statisticians that any retail price index with a fixed regimen tends to exaggerate the rise of prices over periods in which prices rise substantially and in which consumption shows marked changes. The reason is that, when possible, consumer buying transfers to goods whose prices rise least. There was some scope for the operation of this principle to affect the index in the past ten years." This statement cannot be denied.

It is also true, and commonly accepted by everybody, that a retail price index tends to underestimate rises in prices over periods in which there are acute shortages of consumer goods and continuous competition by consumers for supplies available. The reason is that, when possible, many sellers charge more than the fixed or legal price and pass goods of inferior quality as first-grade. There was considerable scope for the operation of this "principle" to affect the index in the past ten years and it is probable that the effects of this "principle" more than outweigh the effects of the principle mentioned by the Statistician.

(3) Lodge Dues and Medicine.—The following information with regard to Lodge Dues and Medicine was supplied by the Statistician: "In effect, the 'prices' of this item have been kept constant for a lengthy period. There was, however, an appreciable increase in lodge dues last year and this has not been made effective in the index. The reason is that almost concurrently Government action was instituted on the 'Free Medicine Scheme 'and this accentuates the need for considering whether the item is appropriate to the index at all. The degree of error involved in keeping the 'price' of this item constant has been relatively small.' While the degree of error involved may be relatively small, it is still an error which depresses the basic wage and could, without doubt, result in the basic wage being is. less than would be the case if the proper adjustment was made to this item.

The "C" Series Index and Basic Wage Adjustments—continued.  $Section \ B$ —continued.

(4) Recreation.—The Statistician maintains that "The 'weekly amount' of this item also has been kept constant in the price sense, but it has been reviewed on numerous occasions in recent years. On the evidence available, my view is that we have done the correct thing in the price sense." This position is only tenable by the Statistician on the basis of excluding entertainment tax from the prices he has reviewed in relation to Recreation. Apparently, such a course is justified on the basis of entertainment tax being classified as a direct and not an indirect tax.

The actual position is that recreation is necessary and that the amount paid by the workers to procure the customary forms of recreation has increased substantially. If it is held that in the price sense the Statistician is correct, then this is another case similar to those reviewed in Section A, which demonstrates that a price index is not a just index to use in making automatic adjustments to wages.

## SECTION C.

# The "C" Series Index as an Instrument of Administrative Policy.

On page 9\* of the document presented to the Court by the Commonwealth Statistician, it states "The 'C' Series Index has remained throughout an objective statistical index for measuring defined price variations. It has never been used as an instrument of administrative policy". No quarrel can be made with this statement as far as the Commonwealth Statistician is concerned. There is no doubt that the Statistician has always endeavoured to measure defined price variations objectively, but it does not follow that the index has not been used as an instrument of administrative policy. The very opposite is the case.

When the policy of price stabilization was introduced in 1942, it was intended that the price of all consumer goods should be pegged at the then existing levels. This policy was not enforced and progressively, more and more price increases were approved. A firm endeavour was then made to peg, as rigidly as possible, the prices of "necessities". The definition of "necessities", however, became narrower and prices of more and more items were increased as the classification of non-necessities and non-consumer goods became wider. In cases where it was considered that the prices of "necessities" should be increased, the increase was kept to a minimum and a subsidy granted to the manufacturer or the seller.

An analysis of subsidies paid for the years 1943-44 to 1947-48 inclusive, shows that of a total subsidy payment of approximately £88,000,000, approximately £69,000,000 was paid in respect of items included in the "C" Series Regimen. The close relationship between the official definition of "necessities" and items in the "C" Series Index is not merely coincidental.

Potatoes and onions, the only vegetables included in the Regimen, were the only vegetables subsidized although other vegetables are equally necessitous. Tea, which is included in the regimen, was subsidized. Coffee and cocoa were not subsidized.

During an inquiry into the price of milk by the Milk Board of New South Wales when I was giving evidence, a member of the Milk Board stated that it was Government policy to maintain the price of milk as low as possible because of the weighting given to milk in the "C" Series Regimen.

The Chairman of the Jam and Condiment Manufacturers' Association giving evidence in this Court in the 40-hour case stated that the Prices Commission had approved higher prices for jam, ranging from 1s. per dozen tins in the case of plum jam to 3s. a dozen tins in the case of strawberry jam. Plum jam is included in the "C" Series Regimen.

The comparatively steep rise in the "C" Series Index since the withdrawal of subsidies by the Commonwealth Government is further evidence of the fact that price stabilization subsidies were directed towards the pegging of prices included in the regimen and it is probable that future examination of the prices of the "extra" items which have been collected by the Statistician since September, 1948, will reveal a lower increase than in the case of "C" Series prices.

Price stabilization subsidies were not only directed to price stabilization, but were directed to rigid wage pegging and the "C" Series Index was used as an administrative basis for ensuring that this policy was as effective as possible.

The "C" Series Index and Basic Wage Adjustments—continued.

Section D.

The Present Position in regard to the Index.

As conditions become more "normal" and the degree of dispersion in price movements has been reduced, the "C" Series Index will undoubtedly reflect price increases of items entering into wage-earners' budgets more accurately. The Statistician forecasts the possibility of the "C" Series Regimen being extended in the near future. If this is done, the revised index should not be automatically applied for the purpose of wage adjustments and the index in its present form should continue to be compiled and published by the Statistician.

Prices of items, such as fish, fruit and vegetables, have increased during the period of rising prices to a greater extent than index items and the Basic Wage has not been adjusted upwards because of such increases. It is probable that the prices of the same items will fall more than average in the coming period of falling prices and if the main submission of the unions in this connexion, that the Basic Wage should not be adjusted downwards, is rejected by the Court, any downward adjustment which is made should not be affected by falling prices of those items which did not result in an increase in the Basic Wage in the period of rising prices.

It is submitted that the Court, when fixing the level of the Basic Wage at the conclusion of this inquiry, should take into account the degree to which the Basic Wage has been depressed because of the factors outlined in these submissions and that the aspects dealt with in this section, together with the submissions made in Sections A and C should convince the Court of the urgent need for a separate Court Index for the purpose of making automatic adjustments to the Basic Wage.

In addition, the Statistician should be asked to make the appropriate adjustments in the index suggested by the submissions made in Section B.

## RETAIL VEGETABLE PRICES, SYDNEY.

(Excluding Potatoes and Onions.)

Weighted Index Based on Average of Prices for Corresponding Weeks in Years 1938-1940 =100.

(N.B.—This is merely an experimental index. Supplies and prices of vegetables vary so widely and so rapidly in Sydney that it is not possible to measure prices variations by ordinary index-number technique.

This index merely indicates (very roughly) that prices of vegetables in Sydney have ranged between about 40 per cent. and about 200 per cent. above pre-war level in the two years 1947 and 1948.)

	1947.						1948.			
Month.	,	Week inc	luding-		Aver- age	Week including—				Aver- age
	8th.	15th.	22nd.	29th.	for Month.	8th.	15th.	22nd.	29th.	for Month.
January February March April May June July August September October November December	134 174 207 186 158 159 175 200 163 172 186	148 211 210 177 131 182 152 170 180 183 175 186	147 184 194 176 129 175 156 163 160 177 172	127 201 191 150 144 163 164 170 176 164 187 N.A.	139 193 200 170 140 170 158 170 179 172 176 186	203 178 236 169 192 252 322 305 315 235 254 288	236 222 175 157 206 263 296 298 272 205 266 254	195 165 180 150 261 281 324 309 276 240 255 264	140 196 171 174 263 269 316 301 260 221 284 N.A.	169 190 190 163 230 266 315 303 281 225 265 269
Average for Year	175	179	169	168	173	236	229	229	223	229

Note.—This index relates to Tomatoes, Peas, Beans, Cabbages, Cauliflowers and Carrots. Each of these is given an appropriate weight for each month of the year (based on market receivals). The "Average for Month" is the mean of the figures for four weeks of the month.

The "Average for Year" is the mean of the monthly averages. This average is not very significant. Comparison should be made for corresponding months.

# COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN

on

# Mr. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS RELATIVE TO THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS.

Prepared for

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration,

August, 1949

by

# S. R. CARVER,

Acting Commonwealth Statistician— December, 1940 to May, 1946, March, 1948 to May, 1949.

1. Mr. Baker's Submissions—		Page.
Section A.—"Propriety of Adjusting Wages by means of a Prindex"—pp. 190 to 191	ce	107
Section B.—"Submissions concerning "C" Series as a Price Index	,	
pp. 191 to 193	iis-	201
trative Policy "—p. 193		204
Section D.—" The present position in regard to the Index "—p. 194		206
2. Annexure (1)—Rents		207
3. Annexure (2)—Experimental Index on Vegetable Prices (Sydney)		200

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued. Section A.

Mr. Baker's Third Paragraph, Page 190.

Mr. Baker submits that the "C" Series Index "is not a suitable means by which to periodically adjust wages. Periodical adjustment of wages should take into account availability of items . . . . as well as increased costs due to improved standards . . . . ".

Comment (A).—The Statistician has always regarded the "C" Series Retail Price Index as a statistical price index which (inter alia) is used for making automatic wage adjustments on account of price variations. He has assumed that the Court (in its periodic determinations of the wage) has considered, quite separately from the index, evidence submitted on other matters such as changes in mode of living due to availability of items and increased cost of living due to improved standards of living. He agrees (if that is the submission) that while price variations can be segregated and measured with reasonable precision by statistical technique through price index-numbers, changes in cost of living (due to factors other than price changes) can only be assessed on evidence as a separate function which is not a Statistician's function. He does not regard it as a criticism of a price index that it does not do things that a price index cannot be expected to do. (This matter is alluded to further in comment on Section D of Mr. Baker's submission).

#### RENT

Mr. Baker's Second Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) states that "The standard of accommodation measured varies from State to State and city to city . . . . . changes in rentals in varying standards of accommodation are measured"

Comment (B).—Rentals for capital cities as used in the index relate in all cases to houses of 4 and 5 rooms combined in uniform proportions. But average rents of brick houses and wood houses are combined in the proportions in which rented brick houses and wood houses are in actual use in individual cities. It is true that in Brisbane there are practically no brick houses of this size rented and that in Adelaide brick preponderates. It is also true that the proportion of brick and wood to the total in other capitals varies. The weights for brick and wooden houses for each city are determined on actual local conditions and are kept constant once they have been determined. Variations in rentals are then measured on this basis and it would be unreal to measure them on any "uniform" basis which does not exist. The term "varying standards of accommodation" is probably intended to mean "differing standards of accommodation".

Mr. Baker's Third Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) ("From time . . . . .").

Comment (C).—The first two sentences of this paragraph are factually correct. Houses which have deteriorated appreciably are deleted to preserve continuity of standard. The argument in the remainder of the paragraph is, of course, suppositious. In the event of all houses or a substantial proportion of houses in a slum area being demolished and replaced by superior houses it would be necessary for the Statistician to consider for purposes of the "C" Series Index whether any and what part of the difference in rentals was due to "price increase". It would be incorrect to conclude that price index procedure appropriate to the occurrence of a few demolitions would be applicable to a general slum clearance scheme.

Mr. Baker's Fourth Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) (beginning "Furthermore . . . . ")

Comment (D).—It is possible to argue that, over a term of years, all dwellings provide a progressively lower standard of accommodation. This deterioration, however, is slow and slight especially when necessary repairs are made. Furthermore, on a sufficiently broad view, not only the house itself, but its general environment, its amenities such as the availability of gas and electricity, improvements to streets and pathways and improvements in transport frequently tend to compensate for deterioration. In respect of environment the reverse, of course, is true of some houses in areas which become increasingly industrialized; but in that case change in proximity to work may occur. To the extent that necessary repairs were not made during the war period, rentals as obtained for "C" Series Index do relate to a standard of accommodation which deteriorated at a rate faster than normal. Such deterioration is not measurable and it is one of many transient war-time circumstances which (as elsewhere indicated) complicated the problem of measuring price changes in past years.

COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—continued.

#### Section A.—continued.

Mr. Baker's Fifth Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) (beginning "It is a reasonable . . . . . ").

Comment (E).—It is agreed that it is a reasonable assumption that practically all houses built for letting since the end of the war have been built by Government Housing authorities. The Statistician has so far omitted such houses from the index but not for the reason that they are let with the option of purchase. That is one consideration in some States,

The position is approximately as follows:-

# Rented Houses of Four and Five Rooms. Occupied by Wage Earners—Six Capital Cities Weighted Average.

	 Approximate. Number.	Actual Average Rental.
Government Occupied since 30	 3,500	Per week. s. d.  24 2 { Census 29 9 { average 24s. 4d. 34 8}  24 9

The actual average of rents actually paid for the 132,000 houses of 4 and 5 rooms, occupied by wage-earners at the Census (30th June, 1947) was 24s. 4d. per week. To this "stock" of houses has been added approximately 5,000 new Government houses at an actual average rental of 34s. 8d. per week. Assuming that the "stock" is still occupied as it was at 30th June, 1947 and that very few new private houses have been rented since the Census, the "stock" of houses of 4 and 5 rooms occupied by wage-earner tenants as at (about) 31st December, 1948, was approximately 137,000 and their average rental approximately 24s. 9d.—compared with the Census average of 24s. 4d. (30th June, 1947). The difference of 5d. represents the increase in the actual average amount of weekly rental over the period.

So far as investigations have gone the "C" Series sample has measured the "price" element in the pre-censal rent rise with reasonable precision for the six capital cities combined. But as yet the index includes no part of the 5d. increase in average rents actually paid which has occurred since the Census.

At first sight it may appear that the index should include the whole of this 5d. But only part of it is "price" rise due to the rentals being ad valorem on higher building costs. Some part of it is an overstatement, some part of it is due to crude averaging, and some part to higher standard as compared with the average standard of the "stock" of pre-Census houses. It is uncertain as to whether any appreciable part of it is "price" rise that should be included in "C" Series Retail Price Index. Some difficulty flows from the circumstance that there is a dual level of house rents, viz.:—
(i) that of pre-war houses with rents virtually pegged at 1942 level and (ii) that of post-war houses which are ad valorem. Mr. Baker's submission as to adjusting wages to allow for the dearer rents of post-war houses, links with his major submission that wages should be adjusted to include the total increase in average rents actually paid. At present automatic conversion of the "C" Series Index to Court Series adjusts the wage for "price" rise only. The two are dealt with conjointly in Annexure (1) hereto where the effects of alternative courses of procedure are set out.

COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON Mr. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—continued. Section A.—continued.

For the sake of clarity the approximate amounts involved may here be summarized in money terms :-

			Per 7	Week.	
Period, June, 1933 to June, 1947— Rise in average rents actually paid "Price" rise as measured for "C" Series Index			5 3	d. 6	
(A) Intercensal difference Period, 30th June, 1947 to about 31st December, 1948.			I	8	
(B) Post-censal difference			0	5	
Approximate "excess" of rents actually paid over "pri	ce "in	crease	2	I	

The spread of figures between individual cities is fairly wide and can be calculated only roughly. But the above is the weighted average for the six capital cities, and shows the money amounts involved in relation to Mr. Baker's submission (page 190) that "The Court should take into account these higher rentals in adjusting the basic wage, notwithstanding the fact that the standard of accommodation provided may be higher than average ".

Mr. Baker's Seventh and Eighth Paragraphs on "Rent" (page 100) (beginning "Further, for the purpose of . . . . ").

Comment (F).—Seventy per cent. of flats and nearly 90 per cent. of tenements ("rooms") are occupied by one, two or three persons. For the most part these are single individuals or couples who have no children or only one child. Such dwellings are not representative for the predominant types of wage-earner households to which the index is relevant. Flats accommodate less than 5 per cent. of the population who live in dwellings which house four or more persons. For these reasons rentals of flats and tenements ("rooms") have not been included in the "C" Series Index.

# FARES.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 191) is .—" Account should be taken by the Court of

the increased quantum of travel necessary from time to time".

\*Comment (G).—As pointed out in paragraph 3 of Section A of the Statistician's Memorandum on "C" Series Index:—"Changes in cost of living caused by factors other than price variations are subjects for consideration quite independently of the "C" Series Index.".

The Statistician could not produce periodic data as to "quantum of travel necessary" in changing circumstances, in a form suitable "for a separate Court Index for the purpose of making automatic adjustments to the Basic Wage" (second last paragraph, page 194 of Mr. Baker's submission). In that case, if the Court adopts this proposal the adjustment could not be "automatic" but would be an amount determined by the Court on evidence.

#### SMOKING.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 191). Comment (H).—The position may be considered in the light of the following changes in smoking habits:-

Australia: Approximate Consumption of Cigarettes and Tobacco (Per Year).

		Three Years I	Ended 1938-39.	1948-49.		
		Total Consumption.	Proportion Imported.	Total Consumption.	Proportion Imported.	
		Million lb.	Per cent.	Million lb.	Per cent.	
Pipe Tobacco	٠	 9·5 6·5	} 0.4 {	7.5	} 3	
Cigarette Tobacco Cigarettes		 6.5	1.8	14.5	35	
Total		 22.5		33.5		

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued. Section A.—continued.

The above figures relate to tobacco and cigarettes in their manufactured form ready for use by consumers. "Cigarette tobacco" refers to fine cut ready for "roll your own" smoking.

The smallness of the proportion of pipe tobacco and cigarette tobacco imported shows that Mr. Baker's submission does not involve any question of the validity of the prices of these commodities used for the "C" Series Index.

In so far as manufactured cigarettes are concerned Mr. Baker's contention would be valid in respect of an index related to *total* consumer expenditures. The case is not so clear in respect of wage-earner households to which the "C" Series Index relates. The following round figures show the huge increase in smoking of manufactured cigarettes in the past two years and the sudden increase in imports of manufactured cigarettes:—

Australia: Consumption of Manufactured Cigarettes (Per Year).

	enerod relings		Local. Manufacture.	Imported.	Total.
			Million lb.	Million Ib.	Million lb.
Pre-War		 	6.4	0.1	6.5
1946–47 1947–48		 	9.0	0.5	9.5
1947-48		 	9.8	2.5	12.3
1948-49		 	9.5	5.0	14.5

In the ten years ended 1949, population (over the age of fifteen years) increased by 12 per cent. Consumption of cigarettes increased by over 120 per cent. In other words cigarette consumption relative to population has approximately doubled. This very great increase is probably due mainly to increase in the proportion of men and women who smoke. It may also be due in part to increase in consumption of manufactured cigarettes per smoker.

In round numbers, the proportion of imported cigarettes used rose from 5 per cent. in 1946-47 to 20 per cent. in 1947-48 and to 35 per cent. in 1948-49. Such figures do not justify assumptions that lasting changes have occurred. However, if this is assumed and if it is further assumed that imported cigarettes do in fact constitute one third of cigarettes used in wage-earner households and that these are 50 per cent. dearer than local cigarettes, the question at issue would involve not more than 2 points in the index. In practice it may involve 1 point (equivalent to something of the order of 1d. in the basic wage adjustment).

This matter and the "weight" allotted to smoking in the index, will receive consideration at the post-war review of the index by Conference of Statisticians. As already indicated, it is impracticable to adjust the index for ephemeral changes especially those of a minor character.

### GENERAL.

Mr. Baker's Conclusion (page 191) and General Submission (beginning on page 191).

Comment (I).—The question as to "what is necessary" (page 191) and the general submission on page 191 are considered by the Statistician to be matters for the Court as affecting the method by which the wage will be determined rather than as affecting use of the "C" Series Index for automatic adjustment of wages for price changes. The Statistician could not compile an index which measured both price changes and "cost of living" changes simultaneously. It would be altogether impossible to do that in respect of any index used for prompt quarterly automatic adjustments. Data as to changes in standard or mode of living cannot be gathered until some appreciable time after the change has occurred. Moreover it might be unsound to use such data until time had shown that the changes were lasting and not merely a transient fluctuation.

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued.

Section A.—continued.

If the Court accepts the principle that there should be express periodic adjustment of wages on account of changes of the type mentioned in Mr. Baker's submission (which are not reflected in the price index) and if this is to be done consistently with continuance of the present system of automatic quarterly adjustment it could be on lines such as the following:—

- (i) "C" Series or other price index to be converted automatically into Court Series equivalent; and
- (ii) the Court to add to or subtract from the resultant Court Series Index such amount as it determined for such matters as, e.g., rents. (See alternative methods in Annexure 1.)

As, however, the "C" Series Index is made available to the Court two weeks after the end of each quarter and wage adjustments are announced by the Registrar of the Court, as of routine, within a few days (to permit of implementation on wage sheets at the beginning of the ensuing month) it is evident that future adjustments under (ii) above would have to be made at intervals after the facts became available and the Court had considered them. Elucidation of the facts as to quantum of smoking, fares, &c., would present much more difficulty than in the case of rents. But changes in the average of rents actually paid could only be determined at Censuses. Extensive "sampling" in intercensal years might be possible.

Collection and compilation of "C" Series is already geared to the utmost possible speed consistent with accuracy.

#### SECTION B.

Sub-section I.—(Two paragraphs on page 192 beginning "The Statistician . . . "). Comment (J).—The Statistician's conclusion that "for statistical purposes the "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights was sufficiently reliable in terms of the official definition of the index, under the highly abnormal conditions of the times", was based on rather wider grounds than those indicated by Mr. Baker. A re-reading of sub-section (b), pages 15, 16 and 17\* of the Statistician's Memorandum will show this. It would be a very lengthy proceeding to set out the full grounds in specific detail. Broadly the grounds may be summarized thus:—

- (i) The indication obtainable from such parts of the facts as are measurable fairly definitely in figures is that "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights increasingly over-stated the effective price increase which occurred in the field to which it related during the period of controls and rationing (1942-1948);
- (ii) By 1948 this overstatement appeared to be something of the order of 5 per cent. (or 60 points in the index);
- (iii) During the relevant period prices of fresh fruit and vegetables fluctuated widely around levels which showed a substantially greater rise than did "C" Series Index; at some points of time between 1942 and 1948 this more than fully offset the overstatement mentioned in (i) above; at other points of time it partly offsets such overstatement; in particular in the year 1948 the offset was only partial.
- (iv) Even exhaustive research could add little to the above that is positive or could be accurately expressed in figures. A catalogue of minor contrasts in price movements would, by its mere length, prove nothing and would probably create false impressions in the minds of those not engaged in the day to day task of compiling the index.
- (v) No index technique and no form of inquiry could have measured effective price changes that occurred under the abnormal conditions of 1942-1948 with demonstrable precision; approximate measurement only was possible.

The Statistician's conclusion quoted at the beginning of this comment (J) is based on repeated examination of the position during the relevant period and on the elaborate care taken to keep the index reasonably accurate despite abnormal circumstances.

<sup>\*</sup> The sub-section referred to is reprinted on pages 173 and 174 of this Labour Report.

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued.

Section B.—continued.

Looking at the whole period 1939-48 the position is-

(a) that it is now entirely clear that it was desirable to continue "C" Series on its pre-war regimen and weights:

(b) that there was no practicable alternative;

(c) that (subject to post-war revision) the level of "C" Series Index is becoming closely comparable with that of 1939;

(d) that any intervening overstatement or understatement due to the abnormalities of the "control" period was most probably small and is being automatically eliminated as "control" abnormalities pass.

On page 192 Mr. Baker refers to two questions in this regard (i) fruit and vegetables, (ii) rent.

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (PAGE 192).

Comment (K).—Mr. Baker, for his calculation, allots a weight of about 7 per cent. to fruit and vegetables in 1939. Some uncertainty exists, but a generally accepted statistical weight for fresh fruit and vegetables (excluding potatoes and onions) in a wage-earner household price index is about 4 per cent. On this weight the relative dearness of fruit and vegetables alone would not have sufficed to offset the excess of "C" Series over the trial index in 1948 though it might have done so in earlier years. The experimental "vegetables price index" for Sydney overstates the effective rise in prices. (See Annexure 1 herewith and Comment (T) herein.)

Mr. Baker's statement (page 192 paragraph beginning "If, in 1939 . . . . . . ") "in the year 1948, price increases in these items alone would be more than sufficient to offset the 4s. difference which would have resulted had the Basic Wage been adjusted by the war-time trial index instead of by the "C" Series Index" needs amendment. The 6o points difference between the two indexes in 1948 was equivalent to approximately 5s. on the wage. The effective price of fruit and vegetables in 1948 was probably less than 129 per cent. above pre-war level and allowance for this would partly offset the 6o points referred to.

Mr. Baker's further statement (page 192) that "Other prices, not covered by the "C" Series Index, also increased to a greater extent than the items in the regimen" is true of some such prices (e.g., fish). It is not true of others, some of which became important. For example, in the relevant period, production data show that sportswear was even more extensively used for every-day wear than were men's suits. Indications for relevant periods are that prices of sportswear (which are not in the index) rose considerably less than those of ready-made suits which are in the index.

#### RENT.

(page 192, paragraph beginning "Other prices . . . . . . "). Comment (L).—The statement that "rental increases have been underestimated in the index" is covered in Comment (E) hereof and in Annexure (1) hereto.

#### GENERAL.

(page , paragraph beginning "Other prices . . . . . ")

Comment (M).—Enumeration of contrasting examples can only illustrate the pros and cons of the diverse movements of prices. Only exhaustive listing of items and evaluation of their prices and weights could reduce the matter to figures. This is impossible. Hence assessment of the question of the precision with which "C" Series Index measured the relevant price rise in the period of controls 1942–48 must rest on first hand knowledge of the working of such an index in practice and an intimate accumulated knowledge of the price dispersion, changes of usage, &c., which occurred. An attempt was made by the Statistician during the period under discussion to evaluate the position fully in figures. The difficulties proved insuperable.

Sub-section 2 of Mr. Baker's submission (page 192)—

The paragraph beginning "It is also true . . . . . . "reads in part "a retail price index tends to underestimate rises in prices over periods in which there are acute shortages of consumer goods and continuous competition by consumers for supplies available. The reason is that, when possible, many sellers charge more than the fixed or legal price and pass goods of inferior quality as first-grade.".

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued. Section B.—continued.

Comment (N).—The view said to be "commonly accepted by everybody" is open to doubt. For instance, it could not be accepted by those responsible for fixing and enforcing legal prices and checking malpractices. But in any event, the scope for such practices to affect the index was limited by the fact that trained field officers of the Statistician regularly visited retailers and consistently sought to ascertain prices actually charged by reputable representative retailers. They also examined the quality of relevant goods to ensure continuity of standard of comparison. It is considered that this was substantially effective except in regard to "black market" transactions in which purchasers paid vendors a premium to break the law to give purchasers something illegally. Field officers of the Bureau actually examined all articles of clothing, drapery and household utensils for which price quotes were obtained each quarter. The law for most of the period, at least, required each article to bear a marked price. Prices of food and groceries were checked at frequent intervals.

It is improbable that the "principle" enunciated by Mr. Baker did in fact operate to offset completely the effect of the principle that "any retail price index with a fixed regimen tends to exaggerate the rise in prices over periods in which prices rise substantially and in which consumption shows marked changes".

Sub-section 3 (page 192) of Mr. Baker's submission—

## LODGE DUES AND MEDICINES.

Comment (O).—Mr. Baker's statement of the information supplied to him by the Statistician is correct and complete. But the information itself is incomplete and does not warrant the suggestion that a "proper adjustment" of this item would make the Basic Wage Is, higher. The item briefly described as "Lodge Dues and Medicine" historically represents an indefinite and wide range of services and commodities in the field of medical service, sick pay, funeral benefits, dental service, hospital service, patent medicines and the like. The item has always been represented in the index by a constant "price" and although the question of varying this amount has been considered at intervals no practicable or accurate basis of variation has been found. For instance, it was not varied when hospital services to patients in public wards were made free in 1946, nor when sickness benefit was introduced, nor when worker's compensation was extended, nor when baby health centres and various clinic services were extended. Similarly it was not varied when in 1948 the medical service part of lodge dues was raised. Yet all of these things affected the "price" of these services.

Contributions to friendly societies for sick pay and funeral benefits have varied as benefits varied without detectable "price" rise. Extended provision for sick pay in many awards and extensions of workers' compensation, have tended to reduce the "price" of sick pay. Cost of dental services at normal scales have risen but there has been some extension of free dental services at hospitals. Patent medicines have shown little rise in price.

This item "Lodge Dues and Medicine" has ceased to be a satisfactory "price" index item from the Statistician's viewpoint because the entire "price" structure in regard to it has changed and variations cannot be measured. Its elimination will be considered in the post-war review of the index. Meanwhile retention of the item in the index at a constant "price" involves insignificant "error" and that error is not necessarily in the direction of understating the "price" rise.

Sub-section 4 (page 193) of Mr. Baker's submission—

#### RECREATION.

Comment (P).—From the Statistician's viewpoint, this also has become an unsatisfactory item in the price index because its "price" variations cannot be measured and it is represented by a constant "price". Historically the item relates to "recreation, amusements and library" but the exact components have never been specifically stated and are almost incapable of specific statement. In general, regard has been paid to admission charges to cinemas and certain sports. Regard has also been had to the fact that broadcast listening has become almost a universal form of recreation. The annual fee has been reduced from 27s. 6d. in 1925 progressively and has been constant at £1 since 1940. This reduction has not been reflected in the index. (The number of such licences has increased from 61,000 in 1925, to 311,000 in 1930, to 720,000 in 1935, to 1,129,000 in 1939 and about 1,500,000 at present.)

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued.

Section B.—continued.

Having regard to changes in prices and quality of entertainment (for example, introduction of cinema "talkies" and popularization and diversification of broadcast programmes) it has been concluded that it is broadly correct to keep this item constant until some more satisfactory means of "pricing" it is found or until it is specifically replaced in, or eliminated from, the index.

For purposes of the index, entertainment tax is not regarded as part of the price of recreation but a direct tax paid by the person admitted to taxable entertainments.

Comment (Q.)—Mr. Baker's statement (second paragraph, page 193) that "the amount paid by the workers to procure the customary forms of recreation has increased substantially" involves questions of standard of living, changing nature and quantum of recreation, &c. These are regarded as quite separate from the concept of "price" appropriate to an index.

#### SECTION C.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 193).

Comment (R).—In view of the assertion that the "C" Series Index has been used as an instrument of administrative policy, it seems desirable to set out the Statistician's experience in relation to this matter. By design the "C" Series Index is a measure of price changes affecting a high proportion of the expenditures of wage-earner households. For this purpose the index must be and remain representative of relevant prices. The Statistician has stated that it fulfilled the design with reasonable accuracy during the abnormal years 1939–48 and has stated that if he had held any other view he would have stated it publicly by way of interpretative comment.

When the policy of price stabilization was introduced towards the middle of 1943, the Statistician realized that in the process of applying such a complex policy in a way beneficial to the war effort, the index might inadvertently become an instrument for implementing the policy of price stabilization. Price stabilization policy was in fact very comprehensively based on a general price ceiling, import subsidies, extensions of home consumption price schemes, direct price stabilization subsidies, manufacturer subsidies, sales tax remissions, production control, consumer rationing, wage pegging, profit control, reductions in interest, rent control and many other inter-related measures.

The representative character of the index might have been affected if either selective price control or selective subsidy policy were directed toward stabilizing prices of "C" Series items to the exclusion of relevant items not actually included in the index. At the outset this matter was discussed by the Acting Statistician with the Prices Controller and with the Minister. It was made clear to the Statistician with tastabilization measures would be very broadly based and not selective, and it was accepted that the Acting Statistician should consider it his duty to ensure that the index continued to fulfil its functions objectively and that it retained its representative character. Apart from ensuring observance of this understanding, the Statistician had several ready means of protecting the index against developing bias due to acts of "control" or to the abnormalities of price dispersion or to failure of supplies. He could substitute representative items for items in the index that had become unrepresentative; he could broaden some of the fields of commodities representing individual items; he could have reported facts as to the index publicly or direct to the Judges of the Court by way of interpretative comment. All statements considered necessary in regard to the index were published quarterly when issuing the index to the press, and in the annual Labour Report of the Statistician.

The primary responsibility for preserving the integrity and representative character of the index therefore rested on the Statistician and exercise of his discretion was unfettered.

In 1944 the Statistician personally discussed the index with the A.C.T.U. Executive in Melbourne when the index generally and its integrity were discussed. Again in June, 1945, the Statistician attended the A.C.T.U. Congress in Sydney and gave written answers to questions put to him. The question of the integrity of the index was not raised on that occasion but there was a question and answer bearing on the reliability of the index under the conditions then prevailing (see Question and Answer 3 (b) appended to Statistician's Memorandum supplied to the Court in June, 1949.) The Statistician offered on both occasions to go fully into any or all phases of the index with representatives of the unions with a view to their putting to the Court any submissions they deemed fit. No submission was put to the Court on this matter then nor during the currency of price stabilization and subsidy policy.

COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—continued. Section C.—continued.

The brief account of price stabilization and subsidies (in Mr. Baker's submission) is not historically exact as affecting "C" Series Index. Price and subsidy policies 1945 to 1946 were parts of a very comprehensive policy directed toward stabilizing the whole

price and cost structure of Australia.

Then the interim basic wage increase of 7s. was awarded. This happened to coincide with a rapid upthrust in prices of many imported goods and of some major exportable goods. These and other fundamental changes in the situation were followed in 1947 by progressive modification of many war-time controls including price stabilization and price subsidies until both were almost entirely discontinued in mid-1948. The anual cost of price subsidies rose from £13,000,000 in 1945-46 to £22,600,000 in 1946-47 and to £35,000,000 in 1947-48 then fell to £10,000,000 in 1948-49 and to £7,000,000 (estimated) in 1949-50. It is evident that factors other than trends in "C" Series Index governed

these changes.

The statement that £69,000,000 out of £88,000,000 paid as subsidy "was paid in respect of items included in the "C" Series regimen" may convey a wrong impression unless explained. It applies to the whole period 1943-44 to 1947-48. During the first part of that period (to the end of 1946) there could be no sustainable suggestion of discrimination if stabilization policy be considered in its entirety. During the latter part of the period (1947 to mid-1948) when subsidy was restricted to "essentials" it was not restricted to "C" Series items but applied generally to a wide field. For example, most of the import subsidy (other than tea) was paid on very broad classes of goods whether in the index or not (e.g., cotton and rayon materials for manufacture of textiles; textile apparel woven or knitted). Other major subsidies related to items affecting the economy, e.g., recoupment of basic wage increases, coal, firewood, rubber and raw wool for local manufactures. These subsidies were not selective vis-a-vis the index. It is a fact that large amounts of subsidy were paid specificially on three important "C" Series items, viz. :—imported tea, local potatoes and fresh milk. These subsidies were paid from the inception of price stabilization in 1943. This fact has been interpreted at times as being selective subsidy policy in relation to "C" Series Index. The fact, however, was that these were the only three major foods (whose prices were susceptible to stabilization) which had not already been stabilized some years previously under home consumption price schemes for purposes other than price control. Instances were bread, flour, sugar, butter, &c. The subsidies as introduced in 1943 aligned all major foods in this respect except meats which were neither subsidized nor stabilized.

The facts are that prices of tea and potatoes were raised by about 25 per cent. in 1947, and both are in the index. Similarly, prices of milk were raised at the end of 1947. The clothing price index rose by 154 points in 1946 and by a further 135 points in 1947. These changes were broadly consonant with other price changes inside and outside the

index.

Fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) could not be subsidized because the marketing system, their perishable nature, and the extremely erratic seasonal variations in their supply and prices rendered the application of subsidy impossible. Nevertheless efforts were made to control their prices and to influence them by contracts. Their relationship to the index is discussed elsewhere in this memorandum.

Coffee and cocoa, being imported, would have had to be rationed if subsidized. are relatively little used as beverages, although the vogue of coffee has increased since

tea rationing. To the extent that the price of tea became unrepresentative of prices of table beverages the index has a very slight downward bias.

The date of the statement quoted by Mr. Baker in regard to milk is not given. Evidently it was since September, 1947 (when price control of milk was transferred to the State) if it was made by a member of the Milk Board of New South Wales. The fact is that the price of fresh milk has been raised by amounts varying between 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. in the respective capital cities since the latter part of 1947. Reasons given for control policies by administrative bodies do not always reflect high Government policy.

An incident of the kind mentioned in respect of jam was in fact brought under the Statistician's notice late in 1946 by a Field Officer and appropriate action taken promptly by the Statistician to safeguard the representativeness of the index in this respect. Even if this apparent instance of selective price control had not been detected the resultant

bias in the index would have been about half a point.

It was inevitable that (among very many thousands of contingencies arising during the past ten years) isolated instances of apparent misapplication of the principles of stabilization policy occurred. These were of a minor character and they were very much the exception to the rule. Close attention was paid to these matters by the Statistician and his staff.

Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions, etc.—continued.

Section D.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 194) (Paragraph beginning "As conditions . . . . ").

Comment (S).—The Statistician's purpose in revising the "C" Series Index will not be to change its essential nature or regimen but to make adjustments needed to render the index more closely representative of current conditions in the light of changes that have occurred since the last general review of the index in 1936. Attention is also necessary to items such as "Recreation, &c" and "Lodge Dues and Medicine" referred to herein and in Mr. Baker's submission. It is to be expected that the index as revised will show much the same trend as would the index in its present form, but it will relate more closely to present circumstances. The very considerable work entailed in continuing to compile the index in its present form would not be justified because, if there were any appreciable differences in trend, it is certain that the revised index would be the more accurate reflex of price movements relevant under post-war conditions.

(Paragraph (page 194) beginning "Prices of items . . . . . ").

Comment (T).—Wide and frequent fluctuations in prices and supplies of fresh fish, fruit and vegetables in Australia render it technically impossible to include them as an integral part of the "C" Series Index without destroying its precision. It is not proposed to use improvizations to include them. The Statistician may be able to prepare separate indexes for them (as he has attempted to do for vegetables in Sydney). But, of necessity, any such indexes would be very rough approximations. The Statistician's view is that there is no statistical method whereby the effective price variations in these highly variable items can be measured except very roughly. Interpretation of such indexes requires exercise of judgment in the light of the facts underlying them. So long as prices and supplies of fish, fresh fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) fluctuate widely, erratically and at short intervals it is virtually impossible to do more than guess the approximate order of magnitude of the fluctuations. (See also Comment (K) herein and Annexure 2 herewith.)

(Paragraph (page 194) beginning "It is submitted . . . . . ").

Comment (U).—The Statistician's view is that the basic wage has been neither depressed nor raised unduly by reason of alleged deficiencies of the "C" Series Index as a price index nor by reason of the effects on the index of the abnormal conditions under which the index was necessarily compiled since 1939. The Court's use of the "C" Series Index to make automatic basic wage adjustments for price variations is considered to have achieved its objective as far as has been practicable in the very difficult circumstances. As Mr. Baker points out, there are some considerations as to "actual" average rents, quantum of fares, quantum and quality of smoking, quantum of recreation which the Court may wish to consider. These are referred to at some length herein. In the view of the Statistician they are matters quite separate and distinct from the use of "C" Series Index for automatic wage adjustment for price changes. Any allowance for them would necessarily have to be determined by the Court itself from time to time. They really involve determinations as to appropriate standards of living and total amount of basic wage which are outside the province of the Statistician. The Statistician does not see how a separate Court Index allowing for these and kindred factors would be used for automatic adjustments of the Basic Wage. They are matters or assessment in the light of evidence.

(Paragraph (page 194) beginning "In addition . . . . . . ").

Comment (V).—In Section B, Mr. Baker does not appear to make specific submissions for adjustments in the "C" Series Index as a price index. The main submission appears to be that "a price index is not a just index to use in making automatic adjustments to wages" second paragraph (page 103). Clearly a price index (if reasonably accurate) is an appropriate instrument for adjusting wages for price variations. So far as they impinge on the index Mr. Baker's submissions might be interpreted as meaning that in addition to making automatic adjustments to wages for price changes, the Court should specifically make periodic wage adjustments to allow for such things as rise in average rents actually paid (as distinct from "price" rises in rents) and variations in such things as changing quantum of fares, quantum and quality of smoking, quantum of recreation, &c., which are considered to be necessary.

## ANNEXURE (1).

## GENERAL NOTE BY THE STATISTICIAN ON RENTS.

Three major matters arise for consideration as the rental data of the Census of 30th June, 1947, become available:—

- Item (I)—It will now be possible to review and to bring up-to-date the absolute amounts of rent used in the index for the individual capital cities. (The relative level of "C" Series Index for individual cities depends partly on the levels of rents. The facts given in this annexure may be relevant to certain submissions now before the Court. Revisions of relative rent levels can only be effected at intervals on Census data.)
- Item (2)—It has now become possible to make an approximate check on the accuracy with which "C" Series rent sample has measured the general "price" rise in rents in past years.
- Item (3)—It is possible to indicate approximately how far the rise in average rents actually paid (including rises due to change in standard) exceeds the rent "price" rise taken into account in "C" Series Index up to the time of the Census (June, 1947). This is relevant to a submission foreshadowed by Mr. Baker. (The associated question as to the Court's treatment of rises in rents actually paid since the 1947 Census is referred to in Comment (E) of the Statistician's Comments on Mr. Baker's submissions herewith.)

Decision on Item 1 depends partly on the view taken by the Court concerning Item 3 and the two are examined conjointly later in this annexure. As to Item 2, analysis of Census results indicates that the "C" Series rent sample has measured the general rent "price" rise for four and five-roomed unfurnished houses occupied by employed wage-earners with reasonable precision, on the weighted average of the six capital cities. An exact reconciliation is not possible because of the many abnormal factors intervening between 1933 and 1947 and the abnormal economic circumstances existing at the time of both Censuses. Disparities between cities are being examined.

Briefly the facts as to Item 3 are as follows:-

The "price" rent rise shown by the "C" Series rent sample from 1933 to 1947 was 3s. 10d. per week, combining houses of four and five rooms and houses of brick and wood in constant proportions and combining them into a "six capitals" average on constant weights.

The average of all rents actually paid for four and five-roomed houses occupied by employed wage-earners in the six capital cities taken together at the Census of 1933 was 18s. 1od. per week. There were 80,276 such houses, after excluding houses occupied by unemployed many of whom were paying nominal rents.

The average of all rents actually paid for corresponding houses at the Census of 1947 was 24s. 4d. per week. There were 132,060 such houses (excluding shared houses) and it was assumed that all wage-earners were employed or in circumstances to pay normal rents.

Although the average of 18s. 10d. in 1933 is not exactly comparable with the 24s. 4d. of 1947, the difference between them (5s. 6d.) may be taken as representing approximately the amount of rise in the actual average of rents paid for all rented houses in the defined group.

The excess of this 5s. 6d. over the 3s. 1od. rent "price" rise taken into "C" Series Index is 1s. 8d. which must be regarded as approximate since it represents the difference between much larger figures which are not exactly comparable. It represents rent "cost" of changes in standard of the following types, viz.:—

- (a) The average "standard" of houses built after 1933 was above the average "standard" of the "stock" of houses built before 1933;
- (b) The proportion of brick houses in the total has increased and the proportion with five rooms has risen;
- (c) Some pre-1933 houses have been improved in standard and rental increase on this account is excluded from the "C" Series sample because they are changes in standard.

Other influences operated and statements (a), (b) and (c) or any general statement is subject to qualifications when considered for specific purposes. It is not possible to give a concise complete picture.

Annexure (1)—continued.

Changes in these various factors do not affect individual cities equally and, having in mind items 1, 2 and 3 of this annexure, it is necessary to consider the incidence on the individual capital cities of applying three alternative methods of making adjustment to "C" Series Index for rental data derived from the Census:—

Method A is based on the view (a) that the Census cheek shows that "C" Series rent sample has measured the rent "price" rise with reasonable accuracy in individual cities and (b) that the "C" Series Index cannot continue to measure changes in relative rent levels as between cities consistently with its main purpose of measuring periodic changes in price level for each city. On this method there would be no adjustment to the "C" Series Index for statistical purposes, except such as concern houses occupied after the Census of 1947.

Method B is based on the view that the Census check shows that "C" Series rent sample has measured the rent "price" rise with reasonable accuracy so far as concerns the weighted average of the six capital cities, and that the relative levels of rent in the six cities individually require adjustment to bring them into conformity with the relative rent levels revealed by the Census. On this method there would be no change in the weighted average of the six capital cities. But the level of the index for some cities would be reduced by 5 to 10 "C" Series points, while those for others would be increased in like degree.

Method C is based on the view that the present amount of rent in "C" Series Index for each capital city should be raised to the actual average of rents paid (including rises due to changes in standard) as shown by the Census. In this case the weighted average of the six capital cities would be raised by 22 "C" Series points and the figures for individual cities by amounts ranging from 10 to 30 "C" Series points. This would give effect to the submission which Mr. Baker is making in respect of pre-censal rents and a further 5 points would be added to six capitals average for post-censal rents.

On the Court's present adjustment scales each 12 "  $\rm C$ " Series points is equivalent to about 1s. in the basic wage adjustment. The foregoing figures are approximate estimates subject to revision.

Comment.

 $Method\ A$  may be strictly correct for a statistical price index which measures "price" variations over a period of time. If this method be adopted "C" Series Index would not in future show differences of relative price levels as between capital cities

Method B may be more appropriate than Method A if the "C" Series Index is to continue on present principles. Adoption of this method would involve accepting the view that rent "price" rise cannot be exactly measured in a strictly limited sense. If this method be adopted "C" Series would, as in the past, continue to show differences of price levels as between capital cities.

Method C would implement that part of Mr. Baker's submission which asks that the Court Series Index should incorporate in full the change in the average amount of rent actually paid (including changes due to rent costs consequent on rise in standard of houses occupied). This could be implemented by adding approximately 22 "C" Series points to the "C" Series Index derived as under Method B above for "pre-censal" adjustments and further points (5 at present) for post-censal adjustments. See Comment (E) herewith.

The Statistician expresses no view on the merits of applying either Method B or Method C to the Court Series. Choice of method (so far as Court Series is concerned) seems to turn on submissions made in various claims before the Court as to the general principle of adjustment and as to the relative wages to be paid in capital cities. Adoption of Method C would accept pro tanto the submission of Mr. Baker that the "rent" used for adjusting wages should be the average rent actually paid (including rises in the average standard of houses).

Figures quoted are derived from extensive analysis of Census results and are not yet final. They may require some revision but are sufficiently firm to be used as a basis for deciding what principles should be adopted.

#### Section V.—continued.

ANNEXURE (2).

#### RETAIL VEGETABLE PRICES, SYDNEY.

Comment on the Index Appended to Mr. Baker's Submission.

This index was compiled by the Government Statistician of New South Wales from a series of long-term records collected regularly by the Division of Marketing of New South Wales Department of Agriculture. The price data are considered to be reliable.

Mr. Baker has presented the statement with all of the written comment given to him.

It is only necessary to add that this is merely an experimental index and it illustrates the impracticability of devising a reliable index of price variations for vegetables in Sydney, or for any place in which prices and supplies fluctuate very widely at short intervals. For instance, not much meaning attaches to the index of 169 for the month of January, 1948, derived as an unweighted average of the successive weekly figures for that month—203, 236, 195 and 140. Prices of vegetables vary inversely with supply. It is evident that there was some shortage of vegetables in the first half of the month and something of a glut in the last week when prices fell heavily. Actually, much more vegetables were available for sale at the lower rates than at the higher and data are not available for weighting to get a true or effective average. This always applies to such an index since the quantum of purchases is governed by supply and price varies inversely to supply. In most circumstances such an index overstates the price rise. Arithmetical unweighted averages yield an unreal index.

The foregoing comment might be extended and illustrated much more fully to show that price index technique cannot be satisfactorily applied to commodities whose prices and supplies vary widely and rapidly. The index should therefore be used (if at all) only to show that the fluctuations are very wide and to derive some rough idea of the approximate order of magnitude of the fluctuations. It should not, for instance, be used as indicating that vegetable prices in Sydney in 1948 were 129 per cent. above pre-war average. The effective increase was probably very much less.

Section V.—continued.

BASIC WAGE INQUIRY 1949-50.

EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS
REFERRING TO "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.
12TH OCTOBER, 1950.

# SECTION V.—continued. EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS.

Kelly C. J.

. . . . . . Provided that the "C" Series Index is an appropriate measure of the variation in the purchasing power of wages since 1937, it will be evident that the standard of living provided by the basic wage resulting from that inquiry has not only been maintained but has been increased as a result of the 1946 "interim" basic wage decision.

Two questions have to be answered: the first, whether the "C" Series Index has properly measured the fall in the purchasing power of wages, and in particular the basic wage, since 1937; the second, whether some further increase of the standard of the notional adult male worker in question can, in the light of all the evidence, be safely and effectively made.

The Acting Commonwealth Statistician stated in evidence that he was satisfied, having taken account of some influences which might have caused an overstatement as well as some which might have caused an understatement, that the "C" Series Index numbers since before the war had been a reasonably reliable measure of changes in the level of retail prices appropriate to the expenditure of wage-earner households. Apart from this, a section of the Unions' submissions concerned the propriety of adjusting wages by means of a price index, which by its nature could not measure rises in the cost of living if they resulted from a rise in the necessary standard of living, due to a change in convention or availability. The Acting Commonwealth Statistician in evidence indicated that this part of the Unions' claim did not concern the "C" Series Index as a price index; but he provided some details of possible changes in customary standard affecting certain items, chiefly rent, which might have caused a change in the "cost of living in this sense. He quoted the difference between the rise in average rents of 4 and 5 roomed houses which had occurred between June, 1933 and June, 1947, as revealed by the Census, and the corresponding rise in the rent of those houses in a price sense, as measured for the "C" Series Index. The difference, amounting to Is. 8d. a week for the six capital cities combined, was not in his opinion due to any failure of the "C" Series sample to measure the "price" element in the pre-censal rent rise with reasonable accuracy, but was a change in "cost of living" due to other factors than price, presumably a change of standard. A further difference of 5d. had emerged between June, 1947 and December, 1948; for a number of reasons it was uncertain whether any appreciable part of this was a "price" rise which should have been included in the "C" series retail price index. After examining the evidence on rent and other matters on which a change in conventional standard had been alleged, I am satisfied that the sums involved are small in comparison with the actual increase in the basic wage standard achieved by the 7s. increase granted in 1946. Moreover, if the alleged inappropriateness of the index has been almost entirely due to rising necessary or available standards, affecting certain items, my conclusion remains almost unchanged. Nearly 5s. of the 1946 increase must be taken as having operated to effect a significant raising of the standard recognized by the 1937 judgment. And this raising of the standard has been maintained by the application to the 1946 "Interim" addition of the "C" Series Index . . . . .

that the Unions have alleged "that the basic wage has not been adjusted in a manner to preserve and maintain a constant real standard of living for the Australian worker"; that "this maladjustment has resulted from the failure of the "C" Series Index figures to measure accurately the increasing costs of food, groceries, rent, clothing and miscellaneous articles necessary to be bought by the basic wage worker"; and "that in consequence of this failure the standard of living of the Australian worker has fallen". I have already said that, in my judgment, these allegations concerning the "failure," of the "C" Series Index have not been sustained

Foster J.

· · · · · "C" SERIES.

I agree completely with Mr. Wright's submission that "of the many things which have emerged from this case none is as satisfying as the examination of the construction of the "C" Series Index Numbers. No doubt can remain that the Statistician's methods and technique completely satisfy the requirements of an index designed for the purpose for which the "C" Series is designed."

After having from Mr. Carver, Acting Commonwealth Statistician, the assurance that a conference of Statisticians held after he gave evidence (but during the course of the case) had resolved against any alteration in the technique of compiling this Series, I am of opinion that for the Court's purpose the "C" Series is adequate, satisfactory and should not be altered. That does not mean that the index is perfect, no such claim is made for it and no such perfect index is possible, but it works within reasonable margins of error and is satisfactory . . . . . .

#### EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS—continued.

Dunphy J.

ccupancy of the witness-box, and was subjected to intensive questioning from all parties interested, including members of the Bench, as to the efficacy of the "C" Series Index in relation to basic wage matters. The index has been subjected to attack in prior basic wage proceedings and has been criticized by economists, and would-be economists outside the Court, and by employers' organizations, and the labour movement in alternation over the years, without the Court itself ever finding any material fault in its structure. I doubt very much if such a full and complete exposition of its purpose and the machinery of its working as was presented in this hearing has ever been given before.

To my mind, Mr Carver's memorandum, Exhibit B.1 (which really constitutes his evidence in chief) together with his cross-examination, and his supplementary submission, Exhibit B.14, should be embodied in one document and widely circulated amongst all those who have any real interest in these very vital proceedings of the Court.

Annexure I to Exhibit B.I is a record of replies by Mr. Carver to questions asked by delegates to the A.C.T.U. Congress in Sydney in June, 1945, and it appears that at that time the Acting Commonwealth Statistician was ready and willing to answer all questions which the labour movement cared to ask relating to the index, and, in fact, did answer a number of most pertinent questions dealing with current problems. In particular, publication of his treatment of that hardy annual, "the non-inclusion of fresh fruit and vegetables, other than potatoes and onions," from statistical calculation should bring home to all concerned, the facts in relation to what is often regarded as a vulnerable omission from the so-called regimen.

It seems to me that the odds are in favour of the omission inflating rather than deflating the "needs" wage up to the moment. The main reason why fresh fruit and vegetables have been omitted is the very great difficulty associated in tracing the fluctuations of price movements with respect to these commodities. They are most unstable both with respect to regularity of supply and uniformity of price, so that the position changes almost from day to day. Whilst it may be true that available statistics indicate that during the war years prices of fresh fruit and vegetables have increased more than most other food commodities, and their inclusion might, during that period, have had an inflationary effect, for many years prior to the war, and particularly in depression times, fresh fruit and vegetables were most susceptible to deflationary trends. If, therefore, they had been included prior to 1939, they would have had a deflationary effect on the "needs" wage over quite a lengthy period which would have off-set any inflationary effect during more recent years. If the Statistician's methods are properly appreciated it should be realized that the addition to food commodity items of new items bearing a low average cost (no matter how common or necessary the use of such items may be) will inevitably result in a deflating of that particular portion of the index. Probably the use of the word "regimen" in relation to the "C" Series Index had given the false impression that the index purports to be a list of items of general average consumption, the total weekly value of which forms an integral part of the basic wage, and that therefore the omission of such necessary and everyday articles keeps that wage below the needs of the worker. Study of Mr. Carver's submissions completely debunks this superstition and, in my own view, the basic wage earner would have been worse off rather than better off if fresh fruit and vegetables had been an original item.

Apparently, this was appreciated by Mr. Baker because at page 1849 of the transcript he says—"If the Court pleases, on the particular matter of fruit and vegetables, I want to make it clear that there is no application or suggestion by me that the index should be altered to include fruit and vegetables," and at page 2572 he reinforced this statement as follows:—"There was some discussion as to the possibilities and desirability of including fresh fruit and vegetables and, I think, to some lesser extent, fresh fish in the regimen, and I just wanted to make my position clear that at this stage we are not suggesting that any major alteration such as the inclusion of classes of items which are not at present in the index should be included."

Mr. Carver did discuss at some length the assertion that the "C" Series takes no account of changes in the standard of housing available to wage earners in relation to the rent figure. There is a possible discrepancy here and the maximum deficiency, if any, appears to be now in the vicinity of 2s. Id. Three alternatives were provided as tentative methods of adjustment, but as the inquiry on these particular lines is really only in the embryo stage, and was not fully debated before the Court, I would not be in favour of adopting any one of the three alternatives without a more exhaustive examination. The disclosures in this direction date from the 1947 Census, and even if they are finally and conclusively established it could not be said that the basic wage earner was

#### EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS—continued.

out of pocket to this extent because the 7s. real increase granted in 1946 more than compensates for any such deficiency. During the course of the proceedings we were advised that a conference of State and Commonwealth Statisticians had made an up-to-date examination of the "C" Series and found it so substantially effective that they were not prepared to recommend any vital alterations, and this fact, together with all of the foregoing considerations, leads to the inevitable conclusion that nowhere in the world has a better system of measurement of price fluctuations been devised

#### SECTION VI.

#### Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53.

On 5th August, 1952 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration began hearing claims by :—

- (1) The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other employers' organizations—
  - (a) that the basic wage for adult males be reduced;
  - (b) that the basic wage for adult females be reduced;
  - (c) that the standard hours of work be increased;
  - (d) that the system of adjusting the basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index-numbers be abandoned.
- (2) The Metals Trades Federation, an association of employees' organizations, that the basic wage for adult males be increased, which would also result in increasing the amount, though not the proportion it bears to the basic wage for adult males, of the basic wage for adult females.

The Court consisted of Kelly C.J., Foster, Kirby, Dunphy, Wright, McIntyre and Morgan JJ., but before the hearing of evidence commenced Wright J. withdrew and during the hearing of the case Foster J. withdrew from the bench. The Court gave its decision on 12th September, 1953 and stated that reasons for its decision would be delivered later. Before the reasons for the judgment could be delivered McIntyre J., who had been ill during the case, died.

The hearing of evidence for employers began on 16th September, 1952 and the hearing of evidence for employees concluded on 11th September, 1953. After the employers had finished their case and before the employees had commenced theirs, the counsel for employees applied to the Court to have the case dismissed on the grounds that "no case" had been made out by the employers. The Court however, rejected this claim.

The decision of the Court, announced on 12th September, 1953, was expressed in the following terms:—

- "I. The employers' applications for reduction of the current basic wages for adult males and for reduction of the current basic wages for adult females are refused.
- 2. The employers' applications for an increase of the standard hours of work in the industries covered thereby are refused.
- 3. The employers' applications for omission or deletion of clauses or sub-clauses providing for the adjustment of basic wages are granted.
  - 4. The Unions' applications for increases of basic wages are refused.
  - The Court makes orders accordingly, to operate as from to-day.
  - The reasons for the above decision will be delivered at a later date.
  - The form of the appropriate orders will be settled by the Industrial Registrar."

This decision applied to awards within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The reasons for the decision were delivered on 27th October, 1953.

#### SECTION VII.

Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Male Workers in the Main Occupations in the Capital City of each State for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) at 31st December, 1952.

NOTE.—These rates are quoted from the latest Awards, Determination, or Agreements which were In force at 31st December, 1952. Where two or more Award, Determination, or Agreement Rates are quoted, the reason for such is that different rates of wage have been fixed for various classes or grades of work. In certain cases of this nature the wages are shown in the form (say) 260s. 0d. to 280s. 0d., indicating that in addition to the two rates specified there are also certain intermediate rates in force. In other cases the rates are shown in the form 261s. 6d. and 276s. 6d., indicating that there are only two minimum or standard rates in force for different classes or grades of work, and that there are no intermediate minimum or standard rates. Except where otherwise specified by a numerical prefix in small type, the hours of labour constituting a full week's work are 40. (See footnotes below).

GROUP I .- WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS AND TIMBER YARDS.

Industry and Occupa	ation.	Sydney		Melbou	rne.	Brisba	ne.	Adelaid	e.	Perth	1.	Hoba	rt.
Coopering—		s. d		8.		8.		8. 0		8. 302		8. 322	d.
Coopers		289	0	298	0	271	0	296	0	302	I	322	U
Furniture													
Cabinetmakers		287	0	278	0	259	0	279	0	290	0	280	0
Carpet Planners			0	278	0			279	0	283	6	280	0
Chairmakers		,	0	278	0	259	0	279	0	290	0	280	0
French Polishers		,	0		0	259	0	279	0	288	6	280	0
Upholsterers			0	278	0	259	0	279	0	288	6	280	0
Woodcarvers			0		0	259	0	279	0	288	6	280	
Wood Machinists		287	0	258/to:	278/	259	0	259/to 2	79/	282	0	260/to	280/
Mattress Making-W	ira												
Finishers		275	6	258	0	252	7	259	0	262	6	260	0
Makers		279/6	&	278	0	252	7	279	0	282	0	280	0
Picture Framing—										- 60	_		
Compo. Workers		271	0	268	0	252	0		0	268	6	270	0
General Hands			0	258	0	252	0	-33	0	268	6	260	0
Gilders		271	0	258	0	252	0	- 55	0	268	6	260 260	0
Mount Cutters		271	0	258	0	252	0	259	0	268	6	200	0
Sawmilling and Tir Yards—	mber												
Box and Casemake	ers	267	0	258	0	232	6	-00	0	256	6	260	0
Labourers		251	0	242	0	231	6	243	0	243	6	244	0
Machinists-									.				
Box Printing			6	249	6			1 -5-	6			251	6
Boults Carver		283	6	274	6	254	0	-/-	6	283		276	6
Nailing			0	250	0	232	6		0	253	6	252	0
Planing		268/6		259/6		233	6	260/6		268/6		261/	
		283/6		274/				275/6		283/		276,	
Shaping			6	274	6	254	0		6	288	6	276	
Ordermen		270	6	261	6	239	0	262		268	6	263	6
Saw Doctors Sawyers—		302	0	293	0	263	8	-51	0	3-4	6	295	
Band or jig		268/ to 2	89/	259/to	280/	261	6	260/ to 2	81/	268/6		261/	
Circular		269/		260/			6	261/		268/6	8	262/ 274	80
		281/6		272/		231/	0	273/				247/ &	
Stackers		254/ & 2						246/& 2		254 288	6	276	
Wood Turners		283	6	274	6	240	10	275	6	200	0	2/0	0

GROUP II .- ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	8. d.	8. d	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	s. d.
Agricultural Implements Assemblers	269 0	252/ & 256/	235 0	253/ & 257/	254/6 & 260/6	262 0
Bulldozermen Drillers	290 6 265/ to 289/	257 0 253 0 258/ to 265/		258 0 254 0 259/ to 266/	293 6 266/6 &	283 6 258/ to 282 262/ & 282
Fitters Labourers—unskilled	246 0	237 0		238 0	269/6 238 6	239 0
Machinists—iron Painters—Brush	265/ to 289/ 260 0	256/ to 280/ 251 0		257/ to 281/ 252 0	293 6 255 6	258/ to 282 253 0
Scroll Patternmakers	260 0 302 0	260 0 293 0		26I 0 294 0	255 6 310 6	253 0 295 0 267 0
Sheet Iron Workers Strikers	274 0	265/ & 280/ 251/ & 253/		266/ & 281/ 252/ & 254/	277/6 & 293/6 262 6	253/ & 257

Various numbers of hours constituting a full week's work.

(1) 34 hours. (2) 36 hours. (3) 37\frac{1}{2} hours. (4) 38 hours. (5) 44 hours. (6) 50 hours. (7) 44 hours. (8) 60 hours. (10) 76 hours per fortnight. (11) 42 hours. (12) 48 hours.

(5) 38½ hours (77 per (9) 35 to 40 hours.

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—continued.

	-									
Industry and Occupa	ation.	Sydne	ey.	Melbou	urne.	Brisb	ane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Dallas Malalas		8.	d.	8.	d.	8,	d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Boiler Making— Journeymen Railwaymen		289 289	0	280 280	0	268 268	0	281 O 281 O	293 6 293 6	282 O 282 O
Brassworking— Coremakers Dressers		265/ to 267/ &	289/ 269/	256/ to 258/ &	280/ 260/	268 243	0	257/ to 281/ 259/ & 261/	293 6 264/6 &	258/ to 282/ 260/ & 262/
Finishers Furnacemen		274/ & 271/ to	289/ 274/	265/ & 262/ to	280/ 265/	268 245/	o to	266/ & 281/ 263/ to 266/	267/6 293 6 269 6	267/ & 282/ 264/ to 267/
Moulders		265/ to	289/	256/ to	280/	263, 255/ &	/6 268/	257/ to 281/	293 6	258/ to 282/
Cycles— Assemblers		256	6	257/6	5 &	248/ &	268/	261/ &	261/6 &	263 0
Frame Builders		267	0	265/ 265/	/ &z	263	6	273/6 270/ & 285/	263/6 277/6 &	268 0
Repairers		267	0	266	/3 &	263	6	270/ & 285/	288/6	277 6
Turners (Cycle)		267	0	266, 280	/3	263	6	270/ & 285/	277/6 & 288/6 293 6	282 0
Electrical Installation		207		200		203		2707 60 2037	293 0	202 0
Cable Jointers		284/6 287/	& 6	275/6 278/	/6	268	0	276/6 & 279/6	280 6	277/6 & 280/6
Fitters Mechanics		289 289	0	280 280	0	270 268	9	281 0	293 6 293 6	282 O 282 O
Patrolmen		262/6		253/6 268	82	241	II	254/6 & 269/	280 6	255/6 & 270/
Wiremen Other Adults		277 246	0	268 237	0	268 234	0	269 o 238 o	280 - 6 238 - 6	270 O 270 O 239 O
Electrical Supply—										
Armature Winders Cable Jointers		301	0	280 275/6 278/	0 5 &	270 268	9	281 0 276/6 & 279/6	293 6 280 6	282 0 277/6 & 280/6
Instrument Maker		304	6	295	6	270	9	296 6	293 6	297 6
Meter Testers Patrolmen—Night		295 304	6	260/ &		268 268	0	269 0 261/ & 268/	280 6	270/ to 282, 262/ & 269,
Shift Electricians	tten-	301	0	268 280	0	250 294	9	269 O 281 O		270 0 282 0
dants Other Adults		272	0	266 237	6	234 234	0	267 6 238 0	238 6	268 6 239 0
Electrical Trades—										
Fitters Mechanics		289 289	0	280 280	0	270 268	9	281 O	293 6 293 6	282 0 282 0
Wiremen		277	0	268	0	268	0	269 0	293 6 280 6	270 0
Electroplating— Platers		259/to	289/	250/to	280/	268	0	251/to 281/	264/6 to	252/ to 282/
Polishers		267	0	265	0	246/ &	268/	259 0	293/6 270 6	267 0
Engineering—										
Blacksmiths Borers and Slotter	's	290	6 289/	281 265/ &	6 280/	272 268	6	282 6 266/ & 281/	293 6 29 <b>3</b> 6	283 6
Brassfinishers Coppersmiths		274/ & 274/ & 290	289/	265/ & 281	280/	268	0	266/ & 281/ 266/ & 281/ 282 6	293 6	267/ & 282/ 267/ & 282/ 283 6
Drillers—Radial		261/	&	252/	&	244	0	253/ &	293 6 29 <b>3</b> 6	254/ &
Fitters		284/ 289	0	275/ 280	0	268	0	276/6 281 0	293 6	277/6 282 0
Millers Patternmakers		274/ & 302	289/	265/ & 293	280/	268 281	0	266/ & 281/ 294 O	293 6 310 6	267/ & 282, 295 0
Planers— Rail and Plate	Edge	274/ &	289/	265/ &	280/	244	0	266/ & 281/	264 6	267/ & 282/
Other Shapers Turners		274/ & 274/ & 289	289/ 289/ 0	265/ & 265/ & 280	280/ 280/ 0	268 268 268	0	266/ & 281 266/ & 281/ 281 0	293 6 293 6 293 6	267/ & 282/ 267/ & 282/ 282 0
ronworking—Assist Boilermakers' Hel	ants	260	0	251	0	241	0	252 0	262 6	
,, Labor	urers	260	0	251	0	231	IO	252 0	238 6	253 0
The selection 1 T - 1		260	0	251	0	231	IO	252 0	262 6	253 0
Engineers' Labour Furnacemen's Ass Moulders' Laboure	ists.	260 260	0	25I 25I	0	23I 23I	IO IO	252 O 252 O	261 6 262 6	253 O 253 O

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Moulding—Iron— Coremakers—Machine	265/to 276/	256/ to 267/	268 o	257/ to 268/	277 6	258/to 269/
,, Other	289 0	280 0	268 o	281 0	293 6	282 0
Dressers and Fettlers	260/ to 270/	251/ to 261/	243 6	252/ to 262/	264/6 & 267/6	253/ to 263/
Furnacemen	266/ to	257/ to	245/ to	258/ to	269/6 to	259/ to
25 12 25 11	284/6	275/6	263/6	276/6	273/6	277/6
Moulders—Machine	205/ to 270/ 289 0	256/ to 267/ 280 0	255 O 268 O	257/ to 268/ 281 O	277 6 293 6	258/ to 269/ 282 o
Sheet Metal Working— Canister Makers	263 0	254 0	242 0	255 0	264 6	256 0
Japanners— Coating or Brush-						
work	259 0	250 0	253 0	251 0	255 6	252 0
Ornamental	274 0	265 0	253 0	266 0	255 6	267 0
Solderers Tinsmiths		250/ & 254/ 265/ & 280/	253 0 268 0	251/ & 255/ 266/ & 281/	257 6 293 6	252/ & 256/ 267/ & 282/
Nailmaking—						
Case Wirers	258 0	237 0				239 0
Labourers	258 0	237 0				233 O 258 O
Setters Up	276 0	254 0				250 0
Wire Working— Journeymen	257 0	257 0	220 0		249 0	

GROUP III .- FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

ndustry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Aerated Wafer and Cordials—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.
Bottlers Drivers (Motor)	257 0 268/6 to 279/	248 o 259/6 to 270/	236 0 244/ to 252/	256 o 260/6 to 271/	253 6 270/ & 276/	250 0 261/6 to 272/
" (One Horse)	260 6	251 6	242 0	252 6	262 0	253 6
Packers Wirers	254 0 254 0	245 O 245 O	233 O 233 O	253 0 253 0	247 O 247 O	247 0 247 0
Baking (Bread)— Board Hands	207	4295 0	256/ to 261/	281 6	301 6	298 0
Board Hands Carters (One Horse)	297 0 277 0	11 <sub>2</sub> 70 0	243 0	276 0	259 6	253 6
Doughmen	309/6 & 312/6	4301 8	263 6	291 6	306 6	298
Ovenmen	305 6	4295 0 4305 10	261 0 263 6	281 6 286 6	301 6 306 6	298 0 307 0
Baking (Biscuits and Cakes)— Adult Males Bakers	243 0 269 6 258/ & 262	245 0 267 0 266 0	230 6 241 0 241 0	242 0 259 0 257 0	250 6 259 6 261 6	234 (279 (285 (
rewing—					2007 6	268
Adult Males Bottlers and Washers	27I 0 27I 0	264 0 264 0	237 0	253 0 253 0	27I 6	268
Cellarmen	277 / 8 276		247 0	268 0	276 6	268
Drivers (Two Horses)	277 0	270 0	248 0	256 0	271 6	261
,, (Motor under 3 tons)	285 0	283 9	248/ to 256/	259 0	281 6	261/6
Towermen	276 0	273 0	237 0	256 0	276 6	276
Butchering (Carcass)—	-6-/+0-069	/ 321 6	230 0	297 9	266 0	316
Chilling Room Hands Labourers (Beef)		284 6	239 0	297 9	254 6	293
(Mutton)	259 0	284 6	239 0	290 9	254 6	293
Scalders (Mutton)		295 0	256 6	365 0	254 6	297
Slaughtermen (Beef)	347 0	347 3	264 6	365 0	283 6	349
" (Mutton)		347 3	264 6	365 0	283 6	349

(a) Piece-work rates.

## GROUP III .- FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC .- continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Butcherlan (Beteil)	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Butchering (Retail)— Carters (Cash Cutting) ,, (One Horse) General Hands Shopmen Smallgoodsmen	289 0 272 0 292 0 292 0 297 0	280 0 251 6 283 0 283 0 288 0	268 0 251 0 271 0 271 0 276 0	281 0 264 0 284 0 284 0 289 0	277 0 252 6 277 0 277/ & 282/ 277 0	282 0 253 6 285 0 285 0 290 0
Cold Storage and Ice— Chamber Hands Pullers and Stackers	271/ & 282/ 261/ & 282/	32I 6 299 6	232 6 235 9	261 O 261 O	263 6 263 6	283 9 283 9
Confectionery— Journeymen Storemen	279 0 255 0	258/to 270/ 258 0	238 6 231 0	261/ & 267/ 255 0	270 6 266 0	260/ to 272/ 256 0
Ham and Bacon Curing— Curers—First Hand Cutters Up—First Hand Ham Baggers Lardmen	294 0 278 6  267 0	316 0 316 0 288 6 288/6 to	277 7 271 2 262 6 262 6	317 0 317 0 289 6 289/6 to 301/6	283 6 274 6	318 0 318 0 290 6 290 6
Rollers and Trimmers	285 0	300 6	256 0	301 6	262/ & 274/6	302 6
Scalders Slaughtermen Smallgoodsmen—First	278 0 295 0	300 6 316 0	268 6 279 II	301 6 317 0	274 6 283 6	302 6 349 0
Hand Smokers—First Hand	286 o 268 o	307 3 300 6	277 7 268 5	308 3 301 6	283 6 283 6	309 0 302 6
Jam Making and Pre- serving— Adult Males Solderers	252 0 261 0	252 O 261 O	233 6 253 0	252 0 261 0	250 6 257 6	252 O 261 O
Malting— Maltsters	273 0	269 o	237 0	253 0	271 6	276 0
Milling—Condiments— Grinders	289 6 289 6 289 6	262 0 262 0 272 6	227 6 227 6		259 9 261 0 259 9	
Milling—Flour— Millers—Head ,, Shift	314 0 289/to 314/	314 o 289/ to 314/	276 o 261/ to 270/	314 0 289/ to 314/	314 0 289/ to 314/	298 9 289/3 to
Packermen Puriflermen Silksmen Storemen—Head	274 0 277 0	274 0 277 0	246 6 246 6	274 0 277 0		272 9 262 0
Topmen Truckers and Others	277 O 257 O	277 0 257 0	249 0 244 0	277 0 257 0	277 0 257 0	277 9 262 0
Milling—Oatmeal— Kilnmen	267 O	257 6			٠	262/ &
Millers—Head	289 6	272 6				266/3 298 9
Pastrycooking— Carters	262 6 283 6	25I 6 284 0	238 0 251/6 & 259/	252 6 281 6	262 0 273/ & 279/6	253 6 295 0

## GROUP IV .- CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and (	Occupat	tion.	Sydn	ey.	Melbou	rne.	Brisba	ane.	Adela	ide.	Pert	h.	Hoba	art.
Bootmaking— Bootmakers			8. 275	d.	8. 275	<i>d</i> .	8. 275	<i>d</i> .	8. 275	d.	8. 267	d.	s. 275	d.
Tailoring—Ord	ler—													
Cutters .			362	0	314	0	314	0	314	0	314	0	314	0
Pressers			278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0
			285	0	285	0	285	0	285	0	285	0	285	0
Trimmers			278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occ	cupation.	Sydn	ey.	Melbou	ırne.	Brisba	ine.	Adela	ide.	Pert	h.	Hob	art.
Tailoring-Ready	/-made	8.	à.	8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d.
Cutters		289	0	289	0	289	0	289	0	289	0	289	0
Folders		259	0	259	0	259	0	259	0	259	0	259	0
Machinists		278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0
Pressers		278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0
Tailors		285	0	285	0	285	0	285	0	285	0	285	0
Trimmers		278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0	278	0
Textile-Working-	-Woollen												
Carders		259	0	259	0	234/ &	237/	256	0	259	0	259	0
Dyehousemen		264	0	264	0	234	0	261	0	264	0	264	0
Labourers-G		235	0	235	0	230	0	232	0	235	0	235	0
Pattern Weav	ers	270	0	270	0			267	0	270	0	270	0
Scourers		264/	å	264/	82	240/	&	261/	de	264/	δt	264/	&
		271/	6	271	6	246	/	268	/6	271/	6	271/	/6
Spinners		259	0	259	0	234/ &	241/	256	0	259	0	259	0
Tuners		252/to	282/	252/to	282/	232/to	259/	1249/to	279/	252/ to	282/	252/to	282/

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bookbinding— Bookbinders Finishers Marblers Paper Rulers Engraving (Process)—(a)	8. d. 295 0 295 0 295 0 295 0	8. d. 286 o 286 o 286 o 286 o	8. d. 274 0 274 0 274 0 274 0	8. d. 287 o 287 o 287 o 287 o 287 o	8. d. 286 o 286 o 286 o 286 o	s. d. 288 o 288 o 288 o 288 o
Engravers Etchers—Half-tone Etchers—Line	297 0 301 6 297 0 301 6 297 0	288 0 292 6 288 0 292 6 288/ & 292/6	276 0 280 6 276 0 280 6 276 0	289 0 293 6 289 0 293 6 289 0	298 6 298 6 293 6 298 6 293 6	294 0 294 6- 290 0 294 6- 288 0
Routers Lithographing— Printers Printers Rotary Machinists Stone Polishers Printing (Daily Newspapers)— Compositors—	295 0 295 0 295 0 265 0	286 0 286 0 286 0 256 0	274 0 274 0 274 0 244 0	287 0 287 0 287 0 257 0	284 6 286 0 286 0 256 0	288 0 288 0 288 0 258 0
Day Work	363/ to 370/6	4339 0	324/ & 327/6	329 0	4322 10	330 0
Night Work Linotype Attendants—	378/ to 386/6	4364 o	337/6 & 344/	349 0	<sup>2</sup> 337 IO	350 0
Day Work	323/ to 330/6 338/ to	297 6 4322 6	313/6 & 317/ 327/ &	311 0	<sup>4</sup> 290 II <sup>2</sup> 305 II	312 O
Linotype Operators—	346/6		333/6			
Day Work	363/ to 370/6 378 to 386/6	339 o 4364 o	307/6 & 311/ 321/ & 327/6	329 0	<sup>2</sup> 335 7	350 0
Machinists (First Hand)— Day Work	323/ to	343 6	316/ &	329 0	4312 9	330 0
Night Work	335/6 338/ to 351/6	4368 6	319/6 329/6 & 336/	349 0	<sup>2</sup> 327 9	350 0
Publishers— Day Work	300/6 to	297 6	282/6 &	296 0	4287 11	297 0
Night Work	308/ 315/6 to 324/	4322 6	286/ 296/ to 302/6	316 0	<sup>2</sup> 302 II	317 0
Readers— Day Work	330/6 to 338/	339 0	307/6 & 311/	320 0	4322 10	321 0
Night Work	345/6 to 354/	4364 0	321/ & 327/6	340 0	<sup>2</sup> 337 10	341 0
Day Work	300/6 to 308/	311 6	282/6 & 286/	293 0	4283 2	294 0
Night Work Stereotypers (First	315/6 to 324/	4336 6	296/ & 302/6	313 0	<sup>2</sup> 298 2	314 0
Class)— Day Work	318/ to 330/6	<sup>6</sup> 339 0	297/6 & 306/	308 o	<sup>1</sup> 307 II	309 0
Night Work	330/6 333/ to 346/6	<sup>4</sup> 364 o	316/ & 317/6	328 0	1322 II	329 0

<sup>(</sup>a) Other than in newspaper offices.

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Printing (Job Offices)—	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.
Compositors	295/ to	286/ to		287/ to	286/ to	288/ to
Electrotypers General Hands Linotype Operators Machinists Monotype Operators	305/6	296/6	284/6	297/6	296/6	298/6
	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 o	288 0
	253 0	244 0	232 0	245 0	244 o	246 0
	305 6	296 6	284 6	297 6	296 6	298 6
	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 o	288 0
	305 6	296 6	284 6	297 6	296 6	298 6
Monotype Casting Machinists Readers	295 0	286 o	274 0	287 0	286 o	288 0
	298 6	289 6	277 6	290 6	289 6	291 6
	295 0	286 o	274 0	287 0	286 o	288 0

## GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Brickmaking—	8. d.	s. d.	ε. d.	8. d.	s. d.	8. d.
	267/ & 273/ 268 0 289 6	269 0 259 6 268/6 &	234 0 247 0 231 6	265 6 260 6 270 6	265 6 270 0 268 6	270 9 261 6 270 9
Labourers	264 6 283 6 271/6 & 286/6	271/ 258 0 265 6 261/ &	226 8 231 6 226 8	253 0 264 0 271 6	257 6 257 6 257 6	268 o 268 o 268 o
Pitmen	284 0	265/6 283/6 & 289/6	228 6	278 o	257 6	268 o
Setters	289 6	268/6 & 281/	230 0	270 6	268 6	273 6
Wheelers	28I O	263 0	228 6	259 0	268 6	268 0
Brushmaking— Bass Broom Drawers Finishers Machinists—Boring Paint Brush Makers	274 6 274 6 274 6 282 0	268 o 268 o 253 o 274 3	233 6 233 6 233 6 233 6	274 0 274 0 274 0 274 0	264 6 264 6 264 6 264 6	
Candle Making— Acidifiers	267 6 261 0 273 3 273 3 278 6	266 6 255/t0 260/ 266 6 260 0 266 6	  	267 6 258 0 267 6 259 6 267 6	246 6 261 0	
Cardboard Box Making— Guillotine and other Cutters	268/6 to 280/6 253 0	259/6 to 271/6	247/6 & 254/6 232 0	260/6 to 272/6 245 0	259/6 to 271/6 244 0	261/6 to 273/6 246 o
coachmaking (Road)— Bodymakers Labourers Painters Smiths Trimmers	289 0 240 0 262/6 to 283/6 290 6 283 6	280 0 231 0 253/6 to 274/6 281 6 274 6	268 0 227 6 262 6 269 6 262 6	281 0 232 0 254/6 to 275/6 282 6 275 6	293 6 238 0 288 6	282 0 233 0 255/6 to 276/6 283 6 276 6
Wheelmaking Machinists Wheelwrights	289 o 283 6	280 0 274 6	262 6 262 6	281 0 275 6	283 6 288 6	282 O 276 6
Bate Hands Green Hands	262 O 262 O	254 O 254 O	242 O 242 O	255 O 255 O	253 6 253/6 &	253 O 253 O
Limepit Men Machinists	262 0 262/ to 270/6	254 0 254/ to 262/6	242 0 242/ to 250/6	255 0 255/ to 263/6	257/3 253 6 253/6 & 257/3	253 0 253/ to 261/6
Soakhole Men Wool Sorters	265 0 280/6 & 300/6	257 0 272/6 & 292/6	245 0 260/6 & 280/6	258 0 273/6 & 293/6	257 3 269 9	256 0 271/6 & 201/6

#### APPENDIX.

## SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydne	y.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Gas Making and Supply—	8.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Coke Trimmers		0	249 0	232 0	253 0	256 6	251 0
Gas Fitters	303		285 6	280 6	290 0	294 6	282 0
Labourers		0	243 O 260 O	232 0 250 6	244 0	256 6	245 0 262 0
Mainlayers	262 287		278 0	250 6 268 0	284/ & 299/ 285 0	275 6 288 6	282 0
Metermakers Meter Testers	266/ & 2		272 0	246 0	270 0	271 6	265 0
Service Layers	281		266 0	250 6	290 0	275 6	268 0
Stokers	276	0	26I O	259 0	268 0	266 6	263.0
llassfounding— Furnacemen	278	6	263/6 to	251/6 to	264/6 to	263/6 to	
			278/6	266/6	279/7	278/6	
Labourers	250	0	247 0	235 0	248 0	247 0	
Lehrmen	260	0	255 0	243 0	256 0	255 0	
Sorters	261	0	252/6 & 259/	240/6 & 247/	253/6 & 260/	252/6 & 259/	
lass Working and Glazin	g						
Bevellers	294	6	278 0	263 6	279 0	280 0	280 0
Cutters and Glaziers	287	0	278 0	263 6 271 0	279 0	280 0 280 0	280 0 280 0
Lead Light Glaziers Silverers	287 294	6	278 O	27I 0 263 6	279 0 279 0	280 0	280 0
DIFFERS	294	U	2/0	203	2/9	200	200
ewellery, Clock and							
Watchmaking— Chainmakers	287	0	280 0	240 6	281 6	286 o	
Engravers	207	0	280 0	240/6 &	283 6	286 0	
Tangletons	493	0	200	246/	203	200	
Mounters	287	0	280 O	240/6 & 246/	289 6	286 0	
Setters	295	0	270 6	2407	289 6	286 o	
Watch and Clock- makers and Repairers		0	257/ & 282/	253 6	287 0	288 6	265/ & 29
lasonry—Marble and							
Stone-							
Carvers	329	4	297 6	273 0	303 0	295 0	
Machinists— Carborundum	316	0	267/6 &	273 0	263/6 &	261 6	300
Carborandan	310	U	278/3	2/3	274/	201 0	300
Other	316	0	267/6 &	273 0	263/6 &	261 6	300 0
Masons	316	0	278/3 286 6	273 0	274/ 282 0	295 0	300 0
Paper Bag Making— Guillotine Cutters	275	6	266 6	254 6	267 6	266 6	268 (
Machinists			266/6 &	254/6 &	267/6 &	266/6 &	268/6
maominists	283	/ "	274/	262/	275/	274/	276/
Paper Making—							
Beatermen			312/ to 328/				324
Breakermen .		6	278 6				285
Guillotine Men . Machinists		6	281 6 320/to 357/				324/ to 3
Ragboilermen .	0.0	6	276 0				324/ 00 3
Other Adults .		6	263 6				259
Potteries—General—							
Burners—Head .	. 270	0	259 0	242 6	258/6 &	263 6	266
Hollow-ware Pressers	283	0	252 0	234 0	261/6		276
Sanitary Pressers .		9	252 O 253 O	234 0	251 0 251 0	252/ & 260/	276
Throwers—ist Class.	. 284/9	8t	261 0	245 0	270/ & 285/		279
Potteries—Pipemaking—	288	5/					
Burners—Head .	. 273	0	259 0	242 6	270 6	266 0	266
Drawers		6	250 0	231 6	260 6	262 6	
Moulders	. 277	6	243 0	228 6	270 6	265 0	263
Mould Makers .	277	6	261 0	239 0	257 0 266/6 &	262 6 262 6	266
Setters	• 274	0	256 0	230 0	200/6 & 270/6	202 0	200
Quarrying—	32						
25 5 5 5	r 277	0	273 0	231 2	272 0	256 6	265
	. 285	8	283 6	234 10	265 6	256 6	259
	. 286	IO	277 6	231 2	265 6 265 6	256 6 256 6 256 6	259 259
Hammermen .	. 277	0	288 6	231 2	272 0	252 O 260 6	259
Machine Feeders .			280 0	23I 2 226/7 &	265 6	260 6	265
Quarrymen .	00-	R		230/8	265 6	252 0	266
	. 285	0		234 10	205 0	252 0	200

## GROUP VI.-OTHER MANUFACTURING-continued.

Industry and Occupation	n.	Sydn	ey.	Melbo	urne.	Brisb	ane.	Adela	ide.	Per	th.	Hob	art.
	. 2			263/ & 245				266	-	8.		8 258	
Hosemakers Mechanical Lati	e		263/	245/ 247/ to	0 254/	233 233	6	250.	6			250	
MID Trans.		256/	/6	247/ 251	/6	233		252					
Ommon Jane	. 2	257/ 263	δt	245/ & 248/ 254	&	233/0 233/0 236	5 &	26.2		:			
Surgical, Packing, an other Makers				247/ &		229/	&						
Tyre Moulders		254/		245, 25I		233,		254	6			258	6
Saddlery and Harne Making—	S	/		-5-	, ,								
Harness Makers Saddlers		277 277	0	268 268		256 256	0	269 269	0	274 274	6	270 270	0
Sailmaking— Sailmakers		277	0	268	0	256	0	269	0			270	0
Shipbuilding— Carpenters and Joiner Dockers (a) Painters (a) Shipwrights	. 25	308 54/ to 54/ to 291	269/ 269/	308 254/ to 254/ to 291	269/ 269/ 6	308 254/ to 254/ to 291	269 269 6						
Soap Making— General Hands .		261	0	255/ 260		234	6	261	0	246	6	241	0
Mixers Soap Makers		273 299	3	260/ to	265/	234 234	6	258/ & 268	261/ 6	255		24I 26I	0
Tanning and Currying—  Beamsmen  Curriers  Japanners or Enam		284 300	6	275 291	6	263 279	6	276 292	6	275 291	6	277 293	6
ellers Limemen Machinists—		284 277	o 6	275 268	o 6	263 256	o 6	276 269	o 6	275 268	o 6	277 270	o 6
Fleshing		289 275 291/6 298/	to	280 266 282/6 289/	to	268 254 270/6 277/	to	281 267 283/6 290/	to	280 266 282/6	to	282 268 284/6	
Unhairing Rollers and Strikers .  Tablemen		284 283/ 285/ 279/6	6 & 6	275 274/ 276/ 270/6	6 & 6	263 262/ 264/	6 & 6	276 275/ 277/	6 & 6	289/ 275 274/ 276/	6 &	291/ 277 276/ 278/	6 &
Tent and Tarpaulin		285/		270/6 276/		258/6 264/		271/6 277/		270/6 276/		272/6 278/	
Making— Cutters Machinists Sewers—Hand Tent Makers		271 271 271 271	0 0	262 262 262 262	0 0 0	250 250 250 250	0 0 0	263 263 263 263	0 0	252 252 252 252	6 6 6	264 264 264 264	

<sup>(</sup>a) Permanent rate.

## GROUP VII.—BUILDING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Building— Bricklayers—	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	8. d.
Sewer and Tunnel	340 0	324 2	287 0	315 0	320 2	310/ & 320
Surface Carpenters Labouring (Builders)(a) Lathers Metal Cellers Masons Painters, Paperhangers Signwriters	326 8 331 8 262 6 331 8 331 8 316 0 315 0 327 6	313 4 290 6 253 6 290 6 290 6 286 6 313 4 313 4	279 6 283 6 258 6 280 6 283 6 273 0 279 6 281 0	315 0 291 6 254 6 291 6 291 6 315 0 280 3	315 2 316 8 270 9 316 8 316 8 313 8 314 2	305 0 286 6 255 6 305 0 308 0 305 0 305 0

<sup>(</sup>a) Rate excludes allowances for statutory holidays, following the job and sick pay.

#### GROUP VII.-BUILDING-continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
P. 14.11		7		7		
Building—continued. Plasterers—	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. $d.$	8. d.
Sewer or Tunnel	337 I	311 4	288/ & 291/9	315 10	320 2	310/ & 320/
Surface	323 9	307 6	280 6	315 10	315 2	305 0
Plumbers, Gasfitters	324 0	313 7	280 6	289 0	316 8	313 0
Slaters	324 0	313 4	279 6		279 6	
Tilers (Roof)	324 0	313 4	279 6	282 6	279 6	
Tuckpointers	326 8	313 4	279 6	315 0		
Water Supply and Sewer-						
Concrete Workers	275/3 to 284/5	273 0	236/ to 252/6	250 0	250/6 to 262/6	254/ & 257/
Labourers	269/I to	253 0	227/ to	229 0	244 6	245 0
	279/10		239/11			
Miners—Sewer	9289/10 to	258 to 268/	252/6 &	257/ & 269/		254/ & 266/
D total and I	308/9		257/6		268/6	
Pipe-jointers and	/ 8-	- 60		/40/	-6-16 8-	
Setters	279/10 & 285/1	268 0	232 6	250/ to 258/	262/6 & 273/6	257 0

#### GROUP VIII .- MINING.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Coal-mining-	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.
Blacksmiths	295 3	288 6	274/3 to		312 0	285 10
Bracemen	291 1	271 6	270/1 to 286/1			270 5
Carpenters	299 0 339 8	290 0 305 II	278/ to 294/ 313/8 to 329/8		<sup>8</sup> 336 4	275 O 309 6
Engine Drivers— Winding and Loco. Other	321/ to 326 284/5 to 293/7	310 5 303 4	272/ to 321/ 266/ to 292/5		319 10	286 7 277/5 & 286/7
Labourers— Surface	276 6	268/7 to 275/3	256/I to		271 4	270 5
Underground	279 5	268/7 to 276/1	256/I to 272/I		<sup>8</sup> 280 I	270 5
Miners— Machine	(a)298/7 & 320/3	(b)	299/3 to 315/3		8318 2	292 I
Manual—Dry Work	(a)298 7	(a)281 6	(a)277/7 to $293/7$		<sup>8</sup> 294 3	
Platmen or Banksmen	276/6 & 296/I	285 3	256/I to 272/I		<sup>8</sup> 277 4	
Shiftmen— Dry Work	298 7	285 3	277/7 to	"	<sup>8</sup> 294 3	284 2
Wet Work	311 1	297 9	290/1 to 306/1			296 8
Shotfirers	329 I	299 0	306/7 to 322/7		8318 2	287 I
Timbermen	293/7 & 298/7	285 3	277/7 to 293/7		<sup>8</sup> 294 3	284 2
Weighmen Wheelers	280 8 280/3 & 282/9	282 7 276 II	302 0 259/6 to 275/6	::	323 7 3282 IO	279 2 270 5
Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)— Battery Feeders	262/ to 268/	217/8.244		261- 0	(c) 291 8	248/ to 258
Bracemen		251/ & 254/		270/ & 277/6	<sup>8</sup> 296 8	262/ to 268

<sup>(</sup>a) Piece-work rates normally operate for these occupations but minimum weekly wage rates are as shown. (b) Piece-work rates. (c) Excludes district allowances.

## GROUP VIII.—MINING—continued.

Industry and Occupation	. N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)—contd. Engine Drivers—		8. d.	8. d.	s. d.	8. d.	8. d.
Stationary	249/ to 285/		225/ to 282/		(a) 302/11 to	260/ to 275/
Winding and Loco	255/ to 294/	273/6 263/ to 287/6	240/ to 272/	26I O	312/1 306/8 to	260/ to 275/
Firemen	244/6 to 261/	257/ & 262/	225/ to		350/IO 293/4 to	248/ to 263/
Labourers Miners—	254/ to 263/	241/ & 244/	232 4	270 0	302/I 284 2	248/ to 265/
Machine	274/ to 290/6	257/ to 274/	237/10 to		<sup>3</sup> 304/2 to 314/2	264/ to 288/
Manual— Dry Work	274/ to 283/	265/ to 274/	237 10	270 O	3296/8 to	272/ to 282/
Wet Work	281/6 to	277/6 to	245 4	277 6	306/8 305/8 to	284/6 to
Platmen	290/6 264/ to 277/6	286/6 251/ & 254/	237 10		315/8 3296 8	294/6 262/ & 268/
Shaft Sinkers— Dry Work	277/ to 283/	268 / 8 274	237 10	270 0	3301/8 to	
Wet Work	284/6 to	280/6 &	245 4	277 6	314/2 310/8 to	278/ to 288/ 290/6 to
Timbermen	290/6	286/6 268/ to 276/	246 0	270 0	323/2 306/8 to 314/2	300/6 275/ to 290/

(a) Excludes district allowances.

## GROUP IX .- RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT.

		1							- 01411				
Industry and Occu	pation.	Sydne	ey.	Melbou	rne.	Brisb	ane.	Adel	aide.	Pert	h.	Hoba	art.
Railways—		8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d,	8	. d.	8.	đ.	8.	. d.
Engine Drivers	Loco.)-												
ist Class		326/ &	329/	306/ to	321/	300	I	307/ to	322/	314/6		306/ to	321
and Class		320	0	303	0	290	9	304	0	305		303	0
3rd Class		311	0	294	0	283	Í	295	0	295	0	294	
4th Class		292	6	284	6	275	5	285	6	289	6	284	
5th Class Firemen—		286	0	278	0	275	5	279	0	289	6	278	
ist Class		279/ &:	282/	264/to	271/	256	0	265/ to	272/	281	6	264/ to	271
2nd Class			0	258		249		259		269	6	258	0
grd Class Guards—		272	0	252	0	249		253		262	6	252	
ist Class		296	0	287	6	275	9	286	6	288	6	276/6	
2nd Class		287/ & 2	290/	270/		268	10	277/		282	6	282 272	6
3rd Class		282/ & 2	284/	281/ 270/1	to	257	0	283	de	276	6	268	0
Porters		253/ to 2	284/	281/ 245/6		235/10		271 246/ &		241/6	to	245/ to	271
Shunters-				280/		239/	9			261/	6		
ist Class		10295/		10286/	&	277	3	278/ &	281/	276/6	to	276/6	&
1 (1)		299/		289/					1	282/	6	279/	
2nd Class	• •	10 <sub>284</sub> /6 287/6		10 278/6 281/		268	5	271	0	270	6	267	0
3rd Class		10 <sub>265/</sub> 281/	to	10 <sub>259</sub> / 268/	to	264	5	258/ to	268/	267	6	260	0
Ordinary		10265/	to	10259/	to	248	7	258/ to	268/	267	6	257	0
Signalmen—		275/		268/	0								
Special		10314	0	10303	0	273/4		287/ &	296/	293	0		
ist Class		10311	0	10292	6	283/ 271		280	0	270	6	272	
2nd Class			0		6	265	6	274	0	279 270	6	273 267	6
3rd Class			0	271	6	258	6	266	0	260	0	262	0
4th Class			0	267	0 -	252	9	261	0	255	6	262	0

## GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Tramways (Electric)—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.
Car Washers or Cleaners	258 0	251 0	230 7	243/ & 246/	246 6	247 0
ist Year	258 0	251 0	229/6 & 232/6	246/ & 248/	265 6	248 6
2nd Year	264 0	257 0	232/6 & 236/	248 0	265 6	252 6
3rd Year Labourers Maintenance Men	264 0 252 6 260/ & 263	257 0 245 0 254 0	236/ & 242/ 227 0 227/ to 239/8	252 0 244/ & 247/ 249/ & 252/	265 6 238 6 253 6	252 6 247 0 251 0
Motormen— ist Year	267 0	251 0	229/6 & 232/6	248 0	265 6	250 0
2nd Year	267 0	257 0	232/6 & 236/	251 0	265 6	254 0
3rd Year Overhead Wiremen—	267 0	257 0	236/ & 242	254 0	265 6	254 0
Leading Other	286 6 254/6 & 277/6	268 0 251 0	283 0 268 0	269 0 252 0	289 6 280 6	263 0 257 0
Pitmen Signalmen	277 0	265 0 /260/ & 268	245/ & 248, 238/ & 242,	/ 249/ to 257/ / 268/ & 273/		258 6
Track Cleaners		251 0	226 0	244/ & 247/	248/6 & 262/6	247 0

## GROUP X .- OTHER LAND TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupati	on.	Sydney.		Melbourne.		Brisbane.		Adelaide.		Perth.		Hoba	rt.
		8.	d.	. 8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d.	8.	d.	8,	d.
Carrying—Merchandise Carriers—	8												
One Horse		268	0	251	6	242	0	252	6	262	0	253	
Two Horses		273	0	259	6	247	0	260	6	270	0	261	6
Corporation Carters	_					,	1						6
One Horse		268	0	251	6	242	0	252	6	262	0	253 261	6
Two Horses		273	0	259	6	247	0	260	6	270	0	201	0
Jinkers—		-60		26-	0	240	0	262	0	276	0	263	0
One Horse		268	0	261	6	249 254	0	269		280	6	270	
Two Horses Sanitary Carters		273 326/ &		257	6	242	0	258	6	201	I	259	
Stable Hands		267/6		246	0	235	0	247	0	256	6	248	
		272/											
Motor Lorries	and												
Wagons—					- 0.	1. 1.4-	/	-6-10	ρ.,	270/ &	276/	261/0	6 Sr
Under 3 tons		270/ to	280/			244/ to	252/	260/6		270/ a	2/0/	267/	
		284/ to	000/	265,		256/ &	260/			280/6	5 to	272	
3 tons or over		204/ 60	200/	2/0	0	250/ 60	2007	27	-/	284		-,-	
Lift Attendants-													
Goods		258	0	258		227/ &				249			
Passenger		2.58	0	258	0	221/ &	223/	249	6	249	0		

#### GROUP XI.—SHIPPING, WHARF LABOUR, ETC.

			1			1
Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	8. d.	8. d.	8, d.	s. d.	8. d.	8. d.
Waterside Working— Wharf Labourers per hour a	8 2	8 2	8/2 to 8/7	8 2	8 2	8 2
Passenger Vessels-Inter-			£	s. d.		
state b— Bakers per month Barmen Butchers ,,			50/16/0 to 50/16 51/18/6 to			
Cooks— Chief ,, Second ,, Third ,,			60/1/0 & 55/3/6 & 50/16	59/1/o(c) 5/o(c)		
Ships ,, Pantrymen ,, Scullerymen ,, Stewards— , Chief Saloon			54/I, 51/18/6 to 49/8, 63/13/6 to	$\frac{52/8}{6(b)}$		
Second Saloon ,, Second Saloon ,, Fore Cabin ,, Bedroom and			54/13 53/1, 52/8,	/6(d) /o(d) /6(d)		
Other "			50/3/6 &	50/16/o(d)		
All Vessels—Interstate c— A.B. Seamen per month Boatswains ,, Donkeymen ,, Firemen ,, Greasers ,, Lamp Trimmers ,, Fuel Trimmers ,,		Zabrale (Store	53/I 54/I 55/I 54/I 54/I 54/I 52/I	1/0 1/0 1/0 1/0 1/0 1/0	Vessels (Steam	)
Marine Engineers bef— Chief per month Second " Third " Fourth " Fifth and under ",	100	Vessels (Stear N.H.P. and 1/6 to 75/1 66/2/6 62/5/6	under	Ov 77/ 6 62	er 100 N.H.F 4/6 to 104/2 6/2/6 to 77/ /5/6 to 69/2 14/0 to 65/2 58/2/0	5. 15/6 12/6 10/6
Merchant Service bf g— Masters per month	Pa 125 tons or u 71/17/0		els. 10,000 tons. 2/12/6	60 tons or un 65/9/o	Seagoing Cargo Vessels nder. Over	s. 10,000 tons. 20/14/6
Officers— Chief ,, Second ,, Third ,,	63/18/c 60/16/c	72	7/2/6 2/0/6 5/8/6	60/18/ 58/6/	0	72/12/6 58/10/6 63/8/6
4th, 5th and 6th ,,		58	3/2/0			58/2/0

(a) Rates of wage quoted are for other than special cargo. (b) Rates of wage quoted are in addition to victualling and accommodation. (c) Not more than 8 hours per day. (d) Not more than 8 hours per day within a spread of 15 consecutive hours when at sea, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in terminal ports and between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. in intermediate ports. (e) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified according to nominal horse-power of vessels. (f) Ordinary length of duty in a day at sea or in port or partly at sea and partly in port shall be 8 hours. (g) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified for interstate vessels, and for vessels within a State according to tonnage; the lowest and highest classes for interstate passenger and cargo vessels are here given.

#### GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania
Farming— Harvesters	s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	s. d.	s. d.	<i>s. d.</i> <sup>7</sup> 247 0 <sup>2</sup> 247 0
Feeders (Travelling plant) Feeders (Stationary mill)	277 O	258 6 252 6		248 O	256/ to 281/6 256/ to	*275 0 *275 0

## GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Gardening-	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.
Gardeners	266 6	256 0	230 0	251 0	252 6	254 0
Gardeners' Labourers	260 0	246 0	222 6	246 0	246 6	248 0
Nurserymen	266 6	253/6 &	230 0	252 6	256 6	254 0
Nurserymens' Labourers	260 0	264/	222 6	246 0	246 6	248 0
Labourers	200 0.	23/	222 0	240 0	240 0	240 0
Pastoral Workers(a)—						
Cooks	567 8	567 8	604/7 & 625/6	567 8	558 1	567 8
Shearers—						
Hand per 100	154 6	154 6	147 3	154 6	141 I	154 I
Machine ,,.	143 9	143 9	147 3	143 9	131 3	143 3
Shed Hands	402 8	402 8	426 8	402 8	423 4	402 8
Wool Pressers	435 3	435 3	486 I	435 3	473 3	
Rural Workers—						
Fruit Harvesters	7237/ to	7236/ to		7234/ to		7238/ &
	248/	239/		239/		239/

<sup>(</sup>a) Shearers' and woolpressers' hours are 40 per week; shed hands' hours are the same as shearers, with such additional time as may be necessary to finish picking up fleeces, &c. Should the time engaged picking up, &c., exceed 30 minutes per day, all time thereafter must be paid as overtime. The hours of cooks are not regulated. Rates shown are "not found" rates.

#### GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

Note.—The rates of wage specified for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are not provided.

Industry and Occupation	n.	Sydn	ey.	Melbou	irne.	Brisba	ne.	Adelai	de.	. Pert	h.	Hoba	rt.
Cooks (Hotels)— Chefs			<i>d.</i> 307/		d. 298/	254/ &	<b>d.</b> 260/		to	273/6		8. 266/ to	d.
Cooks—Second		267/		258/		245	0	298/ 263/ to		283/ 258/ 263/	E	260/	
Cooks—Third		267		258		245	0	259	0		6	260	0
Kitchenmen		257	0	248	0	232	6	234	0	243	6	250	0
Hairdressing-													
TT 1 1		277	0	267	0	238/6		282	0	278	6 °	277	0
Hotels						240,							
Barmen		267	0	258	0	242	0	265	0	268	6	260	0
Billiard Markers		257	0	248	0	230	0	234	0	243	6	250	0
Handymen		257	0	248	0	230	0	234	0	243	6	250	O:
Lift Attendants		257	0	258	0	221	0	249	6	243	6	250	0
Porters—Day Work		257	0	248	0	230	0	236	0	248	6	250	0
Porters-Night Wor	k	257	0	248	0	237	0	236	0	253	6	250	0
Waiters—Head		267	0	258	0	235	0	248/6				260	0
Waiters—Other		257	0	248	0	230	0	242	0	248	6	250	0
Restaurants-													
Pantrymen.		252	6	245	0	226	6	232	6	243	6	243	6.
Waiters		252/6	8	245	0	226	, 6	239	0	248	6	240/	&

#### GROUP XIV.-MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR.

Industry and Occupation.  Factory Engine Driving— Engine Drivers (Stationary)—		Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
		s. d.	s. d.	8. d.	8. d.	s. d.	8. d.
rst Class		274/ & 280/6	265/ & 271/6	265 o	266/ & 272/6	269 4	267/& 273/6
2nd Class 3rd Class			260/ & 265/	253 O 247 O	261/ & 266/ 261/ & 266/	269 4 264 4	262/ & 267 262/ & 267
Firemen— 1st Class 2nd Class		269 0 264 0	260 O	243 0	261 O 256 O	264 4 259 4	262 O 257 O
Greasers Trimmers			251/ & 260/ 247 0	239 O 235 O	252/ & 261/ 248 0	254 6 251 4	253/ & 26:

<sup>(</sup>a) Rates shown are those for the sawmilling industry.

GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR—continued.

industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Municipal— Labourers						
Street Sweepers	260 0 260 0	247 0 253 0	227 0 227 0	234 0	24I 0 24I/to	245 0 248 0
bulou bwoopers	200 0	233	22/ 0	241/ 6 243/	247/6	240 0
Shop and other Assistants-						
Boot Salesmen	279 0	265 0	248 0	264 0	27I O	267 6
Chemists' Assistants	318 0	313 6	293 6	262 0	262/10 &	315 6
Ci. 1					273/9	
Clerks	265/6 to 277/	272 6	253 6	264 0	275 6	239/ to 279
Drapery Salesmen	279 0	265 0	248 0	264 0	271 0	267 6
Furniture Salesmen	279 0	268 0,	248 0	264 0	271 0	242/ to 279
Grocery Salesmen	279 0	261 0	248 0	259 0	271 0	245/6 to 268/6
Hardware Salesmen Railway Bookstall	279 0	265 0	248 0	264 0	271 0	234/ to 274
Assistants	279 0	255 6	248 0	264 0	271 0	234/ to 274
Tobacconists' Assts.	279 0	265 0	248 0	258 0	271 0	270 0
Storemen—Packing, Cleaning, &c.—						
Night Watchmen	263 6	248 0	224 0	241 6	266 o	
Office Cleaners	268 0	245 0	221/ & 226/	229 0	254 6	248 0
Packers—General	269/6 & 272/6	269 0	238 0	260 0	266 o	256 0
Storemen—General	268/ & 270/6	269 O	238 0	260 0	266 0	256 0
Wholesale Grocery—						
Packers	267 0	261/ & 263/6	238 0	255 0	266 O	256 0
Storemen	264 0	261/ & 263/6	238 0	255 0	266 0	256 0
Wholesale Hardware—			- 1			
	267/ & 270/	258 0	238 0	255 0	266 0	256 0
Storemen	264/ & 267/		238 0	255 0	266 o	256 0

#### SECTION VIII.

Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Female Workers in the Main Occupations in the Capital City of Each State for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) at 31st December, 1952.

(See Explanatory Note at top of page 214.)

Note.—The hours of work (constituting a full week's work) for all occupations shown hereunder are 40 per week.

GROUP III .- FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Biscuit Making— Adult Females	s. d.	<b>s. d.</b> 190 9	s. d.	<b>s. d.</b> 198 9	8. d.	s. d.
Confectionery— Adult Females	190 6	184 6	154 0	198 9	158 6	186 0
Jam Making and Preserving— Fillers	198 3 189 3	198 3 189 3	175 I 175 I	198 3 189 3	166 7 166 7	198 3 189 3
Tea Packing— Head Women		200 0	175/7 to			
Other Adults	177 6	182 6	191/7 170 7	184 9	155 0	
Tobacco Working (Cigars)-	179 6	171 0	152/6 to 168/		162 6	
Wrapper Leaf Strippers	182/6 & 192/6	178 6	152/6 to 168/		162 6	

#### GROUP IV .- CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

T. J	a 1	25.11	7.1.1	4 3 1 1 2 3	D41	Hobart.
Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bootmaking— Machinists-Wax Thread	. 8. d. 196/ & 198/6	8. d. 196/ & 198/6	s. d. 196/ & 198/6	s. d. 196/ & 198/6	s. d. 196/ & 198/6	s. d. 196/ &
Other Adults	191 0	191 0	191 0	191 0	191 0	191 0
Dressmaking— Adult Females	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/
Dyeing and Cleaning— Adult Females	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0
Hat Making (Straw)— Finishers & Machinists	177 6	177 6	177 6	177 6	177 6	177 6
Millinery— Adult Females	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0
Shirt Making— Adult Females	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0	179 0
Tailoring (Order)— Machinists— Coat Hands Trousers, Vest Hands Tailoresses— Coat Hands Trousers, Vest Hands	209 0 196 6 225 0 196 6	209 0 196 6 225 0 196 6	209 0 196 6 225 0 196 6	209 0 196 6 225 0 196 6	209 0 196 6 225 0 196 6	209 0 196 6 225 0 196 6
Tailoring (Ready Made)— Machinists— Coat Hands Trousers, Vest Hands Tailoresses— Coat Hands Trousers, Vest Hands	199 0 194 0 199 0 194 0	199 0 194 0 199 0 194 0	199 0 194 0 199 0 194 0	199 0 194 0 199 0	199 0 194 0 199 0 194 0	199 0 194 0 199 0 194 0
Textile Working (Woollen Mills)— Comb Minders Darners and Menders Warpers Weavers—Loom Other Adults	189 6 188/6 & 191/6 191 6 194 6	189 6 188/6 & 191/6 191 6 194 6	172 6 172 6 172 6 172 6 172 6	187 0 186/ & 189/ 189 0 192 0 174 0	189 6 188/6 & 191/6 191 6 194 6	189 6 188/6 & 191/6 191 6 194 6 176 6
Underclothing— Adult Females	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/	179/ to 209/

GROUPS I., II., V., AND VI.—PRINTING AND OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupatio	n. Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bedding and Furniture- Bedding Machinists . Picture Frame Worke	. 181 0	8. d. 191 o 178 6	8. d. 160 8 190/1 &	8. d. 191 6 179 0	s. d. 167 7 167 7	8. d. 192 6 180 0
Bookbinding Folders and Sewers .	. 201 6	195 0	231/ 186 o	195 6	195 0	196 6
Brushmaking— Adult Females .	. 189 0	175/6 & 177/6	146 6	203 3	155 0	
Candle and Soap Making Adult Females		187 3	172 2	187 9	155 0	180 g
Cardboard Box Making- Box Makers Other Adults	. 199/6 & 206/	193/ & 199/6 183/6 to 195/6	184/ & 190/6 174/6 to 186/6	193/6 & 200/ 184/ to 196/	193/ & 199/6 183/6 to	194/6 & 201/ 185/ to 197
Jewellery— Chainmakers	191 0	187 0 187 0 187 0 187 0	168 o 158 o 158 o 158 o	218 6 218 6 218 6	156 7 156 7 156 7	
Leather Goods— Adult Females .	193 6	187 0	178 o	187 6	158 6	188 6
Paper Making— Adult Females .	194 6	188 0				189 6
Paper Bag Making— Adult Females .	190/to 199/6	183/6 to	174/6 to 184/	184/ to	183/6 to	185/ to
Potteries— Adult Females .	177 6	171 0	151 6		155 0	
Printing— Jobbing Office Assis tants Lithographic Feeders	201 6 201 6	195 O 195 O	186 o	195 6	195 0 195 0	196 6
Rubber Working— Adult Females	185 6	179 0	163 0	193 0		
Fent and Tarpaulin Making— Machinists		187 0	178 0	187 6	161 0	188 6

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage mentioned herein for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are not provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Hotels	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	8. d.	. 8. d.
Barmaids	207 6	258 O	180 6		268 6	201 0
Housemaids	191 6	185 o	161 0	188 o	175 I	185 0
Laundresses	195 6	189 o	167 0	194 6	175 I	189 0
Waitresses—Head	197 6	191 0	166 0	193 0		
,, Other	191 6	185 0	161 0	188 0	175 1	191 o 185 o
General Hands Machinists—Shirt and	177 6	171 0	157 0	195 6	156 7	171 6
Collar	179 0	178 0	157 0	198/6 & 202/6	156 7	171 6
Sorters	179 0	171 0	157 0	198/6 & 202/6	156 7	171 6
Starchers	177 6	178 0	157 0	198/6 & 202/6	156 7	171 6
Washers	177 6	178/ &	157 0	198/6 &	156 7	182/6 &
Office Cleaning		230/		233/		192/6
Adult Females	184/6 to 192/6	227 0	164/6 &	171/6 &	171 o	
Restaurants—			167/6	180/6		
Pantry Maids	177 6	180 o	155 0	186 o	172 6	186 o
Waitresses	177 6	180 o	155 0	187 6	175 0	182 6

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GROUP XIV.—SHOP ASSISTANTS, CLERKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Clerks, &c.— Cashiers Clerical Assistants	s. d. 199 6 197 6	s. d.	s. d. 187 6 187 6	s. d.	s. d.	8. d. 172 6 172 6
Saleswomen— Boot	199/6 & 279/	186 6 186/6 &	173 6	197 9	181 6	176/6 & 209/8 176/6 &
Drapery Fruit and Confectionery	199/6 & 279/ 186/6 & 199/6	265/ 182 6	173/6 & 248/ 173 6	197/9 & 264/ 194 9	181 6	209/8 172 6
Newsagent and Bookstall  Tobacconists	199 6 199 6	171/6 & 175/6 198 6	173 6	197 9 1 <b>9</b> 6 9	181 6	174 6 172 6

## SECTION IX.

## Weekly Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour : Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand.

(Wages are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

		V. 10		AUSTRALIA	(Sydney).		Nor		RITAIN AND LAND (LOND	ON).	NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
Industry and Oc	cupation	ı.	31st Decei	nber, 1938.	31st Decen	nbe <b>r,</b> 1952.	31st Decen	nber, 1938.	31st Decen	nber, 1952.	31st Decen	nber, 1938.	31st Decer	nber, 1952.
			Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
			s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	-	s. d.		s. d.		8. d.	
Furniture— Cabinet Maker Upholsterer French Polisher		• •	107 0 107 0 107 0	44 44 44	287 0 287 0 287 0	40 40 40	82 3 82 3 82 3	47 47 47	165 0 165 0 165 0	45 45 45	110 0 110 0	40 40 40	202 6 202 6 202 6	40 40 40
Sawmilling— Machinist, Planing			91 o and	44	268 6 and	40					103 4	40	206 8	40
Machinist, Shaping Sawyer, Band or Jig	::	:: -	100 0 105 0 95 0 to	4.4 4.4	283 6 283 6 268 0 to	40 40		::			103 4 96 8	40 40	206 8 193 4	40 40
Sawyer, Circular			108 0 95 0 to 102 0	44	289 0 269 0 and 281 6	40					112 6	40	215 0	40
Engineering, and Meta	Worki	ng			201 0									
Fitter and Turner	• •		108 o and 112 o	44	289 0	40	70 11	47	140 111	44	IIO O	40	206 8	40
Patternmaker Moulder (Iron)		::	120 0 90 0 to	44 44	302 0 265 0 to	40 40	71 3 70 II	47 44	 145 7½	44	110 0	40 40	206 8 - 202 6	40 40
Tinsmith			101 6	44	289 0 274 0 and 289 0	40			,		IIO O	40	204 2	40
Milling (Flour)— Miller (shift)			97 o to	44	289 0 to	40	71 o and	42	152 0	42	(a) 99 4	40	(a)192 6	40
Packerman			107 6 85 0	44	314 O 274 O	40	73 0				95 4	40	187 6	40

## WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND NEW ZEALAND-continued.

			AUSTRALIA	(SYDNEY).		Nor		ITAIN AND LAND (LOND	on).	NE	w Zealani	(AUCKLANI	D).
Industry and Occupation.		31st December, 1938.		31st Decen	nber, 1952.	31st Decen	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		iber, 1938.	31st December, 1952.	
		Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
Bootmaker (Manufacturing)		104 0	44	275 0	40	51 6 to 58 o	45	130 0	45	·91 8	40	200 0	40
Tailoring (Ready-made)— Cutter Presser (Coat) Trimmer		101 0 98 0 98 0	44 44 44	289 0 278 0 278 0	40 40 40		• •			102 6 92 6 92 6	40 40 40	200 0 194 3 200 0	40 40 40
Bookbinding— Bookbinder		108 O 108 O	44 44	295 O 295 O	40 40	80 o 80 o	45 45	176 o 176 o	43½ 43½	107 6 107 6	40 40	204 2 204 2	40 40
Printing (Dally Newspaper)— Compositor (Day Work)		131 0	44	363 o	40	89 0	45			107 6	40	204 2	40
Reader (Day Work)		139 6	44	370 6 330 6 to	40					112 6	40	217 3	40
Printing (Jobbing Offices)— Compositor		108 o and	44	338 o 295 o to	40	89 0	45	176 0	43½	107 6	40	204 2 and	40
Linotype Operator (Day Worl	κ)	117 O	44	305 6 305 6	40					115 0	40	221 5	40
Building— Bricklayer		121 0	44	326 8	40	77 0	44	152 2 and	44	115 0	40	212 6	40
Carpenter		121 0	44	331 8	40	77 0	44	154 0 152 2 and 154 0	44	112 6	40	206 8	40

# SECTION IX.—continued. WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, GREAT BRITAIN, AND NEW ZEALAND—continued.

					AUSTRALIA	(SYDNE)	Y).		Non		RITAIN AND LAND (LOND	ON).	NI	EW ZEALAN	D (AUCKLAN	(D).
Industry and O	ccupation		31st	Dece	mber, 1938.	31st De	ecember,	1952.	31st Decer	nber, 1938.	31st Decen	nbe <b>r</b> , 1952.	31st December, 1938.		31st Dece	mber, 1952.
			Rate		No. of Hours.	Rates Wage	of No	o. of ours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
Building—continued. Labourer—Carpent	er's		8. 87	<i>d</i> .	44	<b>s.</b> d		40	<b>s</b> . d. 57 9	44	s. d. 132 0 and	44	8. d. 93 4	40	s. d.	40
Concret	e Worker	2.	87	0	44	262 (	5*	40	(a)	(a)	133 10 132 0 and	44	93 4	40	190 7	40
Earth E	xcavator		87	0	4.4	262 6	5*	40	(a)	(a)	133 10 132 0 and	44	93 4	40	190 7	40
Painter			114	4	44	315 0		40	73 4	44	133 10 152 2 and	44	iio o	40	203 4	40
Paperhanger			114	4	44	315 0	)   4	10	77 0	44	154 0 152 2 and	44	110 0	40	203 4	40
Plasterer			121	0	44	323 9	4	to	77 0	44	154 0 152 2 and	44	115 0	40	208 4	40
Plumber			125	0	44	324 0	4	μο	77 0	44	154 0 152 2 and	44	IIO O	40	210 10	40
Tramways— Conductor—											154 0					
ist year			87	0	44	258 0	4	.0	73 °	48	141 6	44	95 10 and	40	180 10 and 185 0	40
2nd year 3rd year Motorman—			90 93	0	44 44	264 0 264 0	1 7	.0	82 0		147 6 147 6	44 44	100.0	40	185 0	40 40
rst year 2nd year 3rd year Carrying (Merchandise)	_::	::	99 99	0	44 44 44	267 0 267 0 267 0	4	0 0	} 73 °   10 °	48 {	143 6 151 6 151 6	44 44 44	} 100 0 and 103 4	40 {	192 6 192 6 192 6	40 40 40
Carter (1 horse)	• •		92	0	44	268 o	4	0	60 o and	48	123 0	44	93 0	40	178 5	40
Municipal—Labourer	• •		94	6	44	260 O	4	0	61 0 58 8 to 64 6	47	132 0	44	90 0	40	180 10	40

<sup>\*</sup> Rate excludes allowances for statutory holidays, following the job and sick pay.

<sup>(</sup>a) Not available.

#### SECTION X.

## Basic Wage Rates-1923 to 1953.

(Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration).

The following table shows the basic weekly wage rates prescribed for adult males under periodical decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration including automatic variations made in accordance with quarterly changes in the retail price index for the city or combination of cities shown at the head of the table. The amount legally payable in any specific instance must be determined by reference to the appropriate award.

(I) The rates of wages shown include "Powers 3s." (or the equivalent

thereof) and "Prosperity" loadings, where applicable.
(2) The 10 per cent. reduction operative from February, 1931, to May, 1934, has been applied.

(3) Generally the rates operated from the beginning of the first payperiod commencing in the month indicated.

Date Operativ	e.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
February May August November 1924— February		82 6 86 6 89 0	81 6 87 6 91 6	73 0 73 6 75 0 76 0	78 o 79 6 84 o 85 6	73 6 74 0 79 6 78 0	81 6 83 0 87 6 89 0	80 6 85 0 87 6
May August November	• •	86 c 85 6 84 6	85 o	77 ° 75 ° ,,	85 6 84 0	78 0 78 6 79 0	88 6 88 o	84 6 84 0 83 0
February May August November		85 0 86 0 87 0 88 0	85 6	74 ° 75 ° 76 6 77 °	83 6 85 0 87 6 86 0	79 6 81 0 82 6 81 0	87 0 ", 85 6	83 6 84 6 85 6 86 0
February May August November		89 6 90 6 92 6 91 6	88 6	,,,	85 6 86 6 89 6 85 6	77 6 81 6 84 0 81 6	86 o 89 o 88 6	86 6 88 0 90 6 88 6
February May August November	• •	90 (89 (90 (89 (89 (89 (89 (89 (89 (89 (89 (89 (89	87 0	80 6 78 6	84 6 86 o ,,,	80 0 80 6 79 6	87 0 86 6 85 6 85 0	88 0 87 6 86 6 88 0
February May August November	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		1	79 6	87 0 87 6 85 0	80 0 84 0 85 0	84 0 82 6 83 0 82 6	89 0 88 0 87 0
February May August November		27	0 "		84 0 88 0 88 6	86 o 86 6 85 6	83 0 86 0 85 6 86 0	90 6
February May August November	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	92 0 91 0	86 o 85 6 83 o	73 0	87 0 84 0 82 6 78 0	83 6 82 6 82 0 79 0	86 6 84 0 82 0	87 o 86 o 83 o

Date Operati	ve.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals
4		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d
1931—								
February		76 6	70 2	60 9	66 2	66 2	70 2	71 1
May		74 3	68 5	60 9	64 4	66 7	68 IO	69 4
August		72 II	65 8	60 4	62 I	65 8	67 I	67 6
November		70 8	63 5	58 6	58 I	62 I	64 4	65
1932								
February		68 10	; ,	22	.,	60 9	64 10	64
May		.,,	63 11	,,,	58 11	61 Š	65 3	64 10
August		68 5	63 o	57 7	58 6	2.2	65 8	63 11
November		67 6	6I 8	56 8	57 2	59 5	64 4	63
1933—		,		300	37 2	39 3	04 4	05
February		66 7	60 4	55 10	55 4	58 I	63 5	61 8
May		67 10	63 4	59 4	59 2			
August		66 11					64 10	
November			62 5 62 10	58 10	97	58 10	63 10	63
	• •	, ,,	02 10	59 4	59 7	60 3	63 11	,,,
1934— February			62 .		60 -	40	6.	
		,,	63 4	,,,	60 2	59 3	64 10	63 9
May		67 0	64 0	61 0	*64 o	66 o	*67 0	65 (
June		68 o	,,,	62 0	*65 o	,,,	* **	66 (
September		,,	9.9	22	* 29	68 o	*67 0	,,,
December		23	9.9	. 22	* "	22	38	,,,
1935—								
March		,,	66 o	,,	* ,,	,,	*69 o	,,
June		,,	,,	22	22	"	99	99
September		,,	22	99	,,	,,	,,	
December		70 0	9.2	64 0	67 0	,,	22	68 0
1936							,,	
March		,,	,,	99	99	,,	22	97
June		,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	"	"
September		,,		,,				
December		,,	69 o	66° o	69° o	7I O	,,	17
1937—		**	- 5 -			/1 0	"	,,,
March		,,						70 0
June		72 0	2.9	68° o	22	,,,	22	70 0
July			72 O		"	"	"	99
September	• •	75 0	,	,	70 0	72 0	72 0	73
October		""	73 0	70 0	71 0	73 0	73 0	9 9
December	• •	78 o	76 o	73 0	73 0	75 0	75 0	75
		29	77 0	74 0	74 0	9.9	,,	76 0
1938							1	
March	• •	79 0	9.9	22	75 0	74 0	76 o	77
June	• •	"	"	75 0	22	75 0	22	99
September		8o o	78 o	,,	76 o	76 o	,,	99
December		81 o	79 o	99	,,,	29	99	78 0
1939—								
March		"	"	,,	22	,,,	,,	9.7
June		82 0	81 o	77 0	78 o	77 0	77 0	79 0
September		81 o	,,	76 o	22	,,	"	"
December		82 0	80 o	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	77 0	,,	"	
940					, ,	"	77	"
February		,,	81 o	77 0	,,,	,,	78 o	8o c
May		83° o	82 0	78 o	78° o			
August		85 o	84 0	79 0	80 0	79 0	80° o	82 0
November						80 0	81 0	
941—		. 97	99	"	22	30 0	31 0	83 0
February		88 o	86 o	82 0	82 0	81 o	80 6	0 =
May							83 0	85 0
August	• •	80 0	8 <sub>7</sub> o	83 o	83 0	82 0	84 0	86 0
		89 o	88° o	84° o	84 0	84 0	85 o	"
November		99	88 o	84 0	84 0	85 o	,,,	87 C

<sup>\*</sup> Except in special cases these rates were subject to graduated deductions so that the increase granted in May, 1934, was, in effect, introduced in stages over the succeeding twelve months.

Date Operation	ve.	Sydne	y.	Mel		Brisba	ne.	Adelai	de.	Pertl	n.	Hoba	rt.	Sin	
February May August November		8. 91 93 95	d. o o o	8. 89 92 94	<i>d</i> .  o  o  o	8. 86 88 89 91	d. 0 0 0	8. 86 88 91	d. o o o	8. 86 87 89	d. o o o	8. 87 88 91	d. o o o	8. 88 90 93	d
1943— February		98	0	98	0					92	0		0		(
May		,,	0	,,	U	92	0	,,			0	94	0	96	
August		100	0	99	0	94	0	94	0	94	0	95	0	98	(
November		99	0	98	0	93	0	,,		,,		,,		97	(
1944														- /	
February		,,,		97	0			93	0	93	0	94	0	96	
May		22		,,		99		,,,		,,,		,,		,,	
August		,,,		98	0	"		22		,,		93	0	,,	
November		"				99		,,		94	0	94	0	. ,,	
1945—															
February		2,3		,,,		"		,,,		93	0	,,		2.2	
May August		98	0	9.9		,,,		,,		0.4	0	93	0	29	
November		99	0	,,		"		,,,		94	0	0.4	0	,,,	
1946—		99		,,,		,,,		9.9		99.		94	J	9.9	
February		29		,,		29		94	0	,,		95	0	,,	
May		,,		,,,		94	0	"		,,		,,		97	
August		100	0	99	0	"		95	0	95	0	96	0	98	
November		IOI	0	,,		99		,,		,,		97	0	,,	
December		108	0	106	0	IOI	0	102	0	102	0	103	0	105	
947-															
February		2.9		107	0	103	0	99		103	0	104	0	106	
May		IIO	0	,,,		104	0	103	0	,,		,,		,,,	
August		99		108	0	, ,,		104	0	104	0	105	0	107	
November		II2	0	109	0	105	0	106	0	106	0	107	0	109	
1948—				***		705		0							
February		114	0	113	0	107	0	108	0	107	0	IIO	0	III	
May August		116	0	115	0	IIO	0	III II4	0	IIO II2	0	112	0	114	
November		122	0	120	0	113	0	114	0	116	0	115	0		
1949—		122	0	120	0	115	0	110	0	110	0	110	U	119	
February		124	0	123	0	118	0	IIQ	0	118	0	121	0	122	
May		127	0	125	0	119	0	121	0	120	0	124	0	124	
. August		130	0	128	0	122	0	124	0	126	Ò	127	0	127	
November		132	0	130	0	125	0	126	0	129	0	128	0	129	
1950															
February		135	0	134	0	127	0	129	0	131	0	131	0	133	
May		138	0	137	0	129	0	131	0	133	0	,,		135	
August		142	0	140	0	132	0	134	0	136	0	135	0	138	
November		146	0	143	0	135	0	137	0	139	0	139	0	142	
December		165	0	162	0	154	0	158	0	160	0	160	0	162	
February		172	0	170	0	159	0	166	0	166	0	76=	^	760	
May		173	0	177	0	166	0	171	0	176	0	165	0	169	
August		193	0	189	0	175	0	184	0	188	0	187	0	189	
November		207	0	199	0	185	0	195	0	197	0	199	0	200	
952-		1				3		- 23		-5/		- 23		200	
February		216	0	209	0	199	0	205	0	205	0	208	0	210	
May		223	0	212	0	207	0	211	0	214	0	214	0	216	
August		235	0	224	0	213	0	224	0	222	0	222	0	227	
November		237	0	228	0	216	0	229	0	228	0	230	0	231	
1953—															
February		238	0	229	0	215	0	225	0	229	0	232	0	231	
May		241	0	232	0	217	0	228	0	231	0	239	0	234	
August(a)		243	0	235	0	218	0	231	0	236	0	242	0	236	

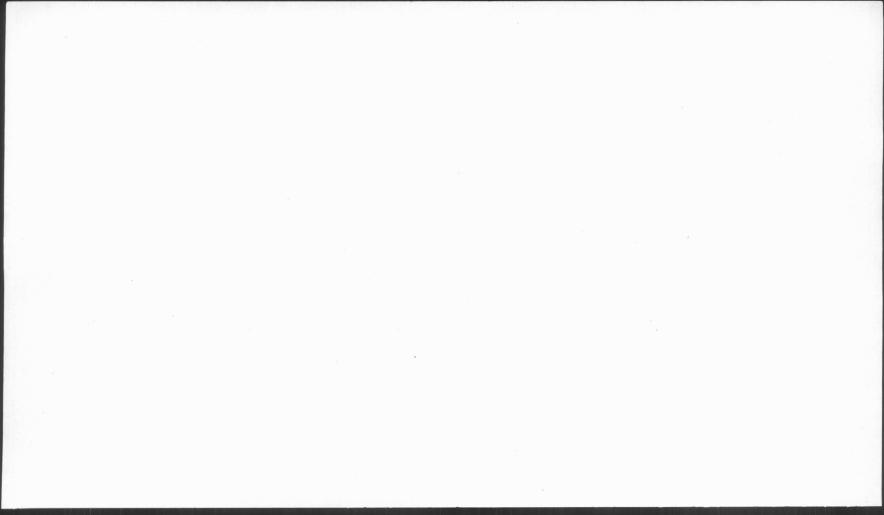
<sup>(</sup>a) By the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, automatic adjustment of basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index-numbers was discontinued in Commonwealth awards either then the subject of applications before the Court or subsequently reviewed by the Court in this connexion.

SECTION XI.

# COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED (Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000(a).)

			"C" Seri			Pro-				
Period.		Food and Grocer- ies.	Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses).	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses).	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	Total. "C" Series Retail Price Index.	Nominal Wages, Adult Males.	Real Wages.	portio of Trade Union ists Unem ployed
Vear								-	Marine Commission of the Commi	
1011					( 1)	( 3)				%
1914		1,000	1,000	1,000		(d)1,000	$(d)_{1,000}$	1,000	1,000	4.7
1021		1,144	1,082	1,121	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,081	948	8.3
		1,902	1,410	1,717	1,883	1,537	1,680	1,826	1,087	11.2
1929		1,866	1,754	1,824	1,506	1,533	1,713	1,972	1,151	II.I
1932		1,425	1,336	1,390	1,215	1,458	1,377	1,639	1,190	29.0
1933		1,342	1,314	1,332	1,190	1,447	1,335	1,584	1,187	25.1
1939		1,657	1,577	1,626	1,271	1,465	1,526	1,846	1,210	9.7
1940		1,679	1,590	1,644	1,445	1,519	1,588	1,889	1,190	8.0
1941		1,693	1,595	1,654	1,690	1,613	1,673	1,997	1,194	3.7
1942		1,843	1,596	1,742	1,977	1,693	1,809	2,164	1,196	1.6
1943	• •	1,855	1,595	1,749	2,177	1,766	1,876	2,309	1,231	I.I
1944		1,834	1,595	1,737	2,168	1,773	1,867	2,326	1,246	1.2
1945	• •	1,849	1,595	1,746	2,155	1,767	1,868	2,339	1,252	I.2
1946		1,852	1,596	1,748	2,276	1,776	1,900	2,400	1,269	1.4
1947		1,967	1,597	1,816	2,367	1,825	1,971	2,598	1,318	1.2
1948		2,245	1,601	1,982	2,637	1,913	2,148	2,914	1,357	0.9
1949		2,492	1,605	2,128	3,019	2,037	2,349	3,210	1,367	(0)2.0
1950		2,800	1,613	2,313	3,455	2,184	2,589	3,596	1,389	0.8
1951 1952		3,649 4,516	1,649 1,728	2,827 3,370	4,156 4,657	2,555 2,980	3,124	4,495	1,439	0.7
narter-		475		3,370	4,037	2,900	3,645	5,241	1,438	2.9
1939.										
September		1,645	1,582	1,620	1,264	1,463	1,520	1,854	1,220	10.2
March		1,853	1,595	1,748	2,201	1,772	1,881	2,354		
June		1,863	1,595	1,754	2,259	1,776	1,900	2,360	1,251	I.4
September		1,839	1,596	1,741	2,299	1,776	1,900	2,378	1,242	1.3
December		1,854	1,596	1,750	2,343	1,781	1,918	2,507	1,307	I.4
1947. March										
June		1,915	1,595	1,785	2,305	1,798	1,933	2,527	1,307	I.4
September	• •	1,945	1,597	1,803	2,319	1,802	1,948	. 2,545	1,306	I.2
December		1,974	1,597	1,820	2,367	1,846	1,978	2,630	1,330	I.I
1948.		2,035	1,598	1,857	2,478	1,853	2,026	2,690	1,328	0.9
March		2,128								
June		2,120	1,599	1,912	2,511	1,874	2,071	2,781	1,343	0.9
September		2,197	1,600 1,601	1,953	2,600	1,900	2,121	2,854	1,346	0.9
December		2,378	1,601	2,001	2,688	1,935	2,175	2,970	1,366	0.9
1949.		2,3/0	1,002	2,060	2,748	1,944	2,225	3,050	1,371	0.8
March		2,433	1,603	2,093	2,795	1,985	2,263	3,099	1,369	
June		2,482	1,604	2,122	2,968	2,017	2,328			0.8
September		2,497	1,606	2,131	3,080	2,017	2,370	3,182	1,367	0.8
December		2,555	1,608	2,167	3,223	2,047	2,433	3,249 3,310	1,371 1,360	(e) 5.5 0.8
1950. March			_						,,,	
June		2,633	1,609	2,213	3,259	2,134	2,474	3,372	1,363	0.8
		2,718	1,611	2,264	3,418	2,151	2,546	3,458	1,358	0.8
September		2,828	1,614	2,330	3,501	2,180	2,609	3,545	1,359	0.8
December 1951.		3,020	1,618	2,444	3,643	2,271	2,726	4,009	1,471	0.7
March		2 207	7.64-	0 165						,
June		3,201	1,641	2,560	3,760	2,381	2,843	4,142	1,457	0.7
September		3,443 3,819	1,646	2,705	4,151	2,498	3,042	4,387	1,442	0.8
December			1,651	2,928	4,283	2,611	3,224	4,601	1,427	0.6
1952.		4,133	1,656	3,116	4,429	2,731	3,388	4,850	1,432	0.7
March		4,298	1,672	3,219	4 500	2 484	0.0-			
June		4,589	1,702	3,402	4,523	2,783	3,481	5,036	1,447	I.I
September		4,633	1,750	3,402		2,967	3,661	5,156	1,408	2.2
December		4,544	1,789	3,411	4,709 4,712	3,072 3,098	3,714	5,345	1,439	4.0
1953.		170 17	-,, - 9	3,411	4,/12	3,098	3,722	5,428	1,458	4.1
March		4,599	1,835	3,463	4,838	3,118	3,763	5,443	1,446	3.4
June										

<sup>(</sup>a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of housing, and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination of groups is made equal to 1,000. (b) See footnote (b) on page 10. (c) Index of nominal weekly wage rates for adult males divided by "C" Series Retail Price Index-number. (d) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses). (e) Includes all members of reporting unions indirectly affected by the industrial dispute in the coal-mining industry; those directly affected are, however, excluded.



## INDEX.

						P	AGE.
"A " Series Retail Price Index							38
Accidents, Industrial							136
Acts Regulating Industrial Matte	ers						51
Arbitration, Industrial—							5
Acts Regulating							51
Australian Capital Territory							54
Coal Industry Commonwealth Court							53
						5	1,72
Commonwealth Public Servi							54
State Tribunals Stevedoring Industry					• •		54
							53
Arbitrator, Commonwealth Publ	ic Service						54
Associations—							
Employers'							152
Labour (Employees')						140	, 152
"B" Series Retail Price Index				4	f, 6, 19, 20	0, 24, 28	5, 38
Base Periods of Retail Price Inde	exes						16
Basic Materials and Foodstuffs V	Vholesale	Price 1	Index				4.5
Basic Wage—							
Automatic Scales for adjusti	ment of						40
Commonwealth							. 72
Females							81
"Harvester"							73
"Lag" in Adjustments							76
Females "Harvester" "Lag" in Adjustments 1934 Inquiry ("Needs' 1937 Inquiry ("Prosper	(Wage)						74
1937 Inquiry ("Prosper	ity Lo	adings)					75 76
1940 Inquiry	,,,				• :		77
1946 Inquiry ("Interim 1949–50 Inquiry	. )						
Memora	anda and	Comm	ent				-213
							213
Rates Operative						80	, 234
Review of Principles Fo	llowed, I	emale	Wages				83
Royal Commission, 1920							
States, Rates, &c						92	, 102
Territories—	4						86
Australian Capital Terri Northern Territory	tory						87
		• •					
Boards, Wages and Industrial							51 82
Women's Employment							02
						-0 -0	
"C" Series Retail Price Index Basic Wage Hearing, 1949-					4, 5, 6, 10	, 10, 30	, 237
Comment by Statisticia	n on Mr	W. A.	Baker's S	ubmissio	ns	106	-209
Fretracta from Indamon	+a						-213
Memorandum by Statis	tician					166	-188
Submissions by Mr. W.	A. Baker					189	-195
Central Labour Organizations							150
Child Endowment							104
Commonwealth Public Servi	ce						105
National Scheme							104
New South Wales Scheme							105
Clothing Retail Price Index-num	bers			١	6, 19, 2	0, 24-2	7, 35
Regimen							

							P	AGE.
Coal Industry Tribunal				٠				53
Mines, Accidents								136
Commonwealth Court of	Conciliat ment Serv		Arbitrati				51	
Composite Unit, Retail							• •	119
Conferences, Internation	,		giinten .	/				TEO
Statisticians' re Ret								152
Consumption Weights, I	Retail Pri	ces					І	
Control Measures—Price								5, 9
Conversion Factors for V	Various B	ases (Re	tail Price	Indexes				17
"Court" Series Index							8, 80, 82,	
						3377		3
"D" Series Retail Pric	e Index							39
Deaths, Mining Accident	ts							136
Disputes, Industrial								123
Causes								130
Duration Methods of Settlem								128 132
Results								132
Wages Lost							124, 127	-129
Working Days Lost								
Workpeople Involve	eu.	* *				124,	127-131,	133
Effective or Real Wages							50, 68,	237
Employees' Associations								
Employers' Associations								152
Employment								106
Board, Women's								82
Factories								113
Governmental							110,	
Industrial Groups Rural								110
Service, Commonwe Total Occupied Pers	alth							119
Total Occupied Pers	sons .							106
Wage and Salary E							109,	110
Graph Endowment Child								
Endowment, Child Family, Ne	w South	Wales						104
Factory Employment								113
Family Endowment, New								105
Unit, Commonw		ırt		• •			73	, 77
Federated Trade Unions								150
Field Officers, Functions								Ι
Food and Groceries, Ret								
Average Prices Index-numbers					6 70	20 2		
TO					0, 1		4-31, 34,	237
Regimen							11	
Commental Employee	on t						7.7.0	
Governmental Employme	ent						110,	111
Graphs— Industrial Disputes,	Working	Davs L	ost					126
Wage and Salary Ea								109
Wholesale and Reta	ail Prices	, Nomin	al and E	Effective	or Real		ndex-	
numbers								50
Grouns of Industries and	Decumat	nong						iii

						1	Dian
Harvester—All Items (	"D"Se	ries) Inde	X				PAGE.
66 TP 1 22 TY		,					39
				 			73
Hourly Rates of Wage				 		62, 6	55-66
Hours of Labour				 		57, 70	, 214
Females				 		64, 67	
Males				 		63, 67	
Standard				 			70
Housing—							
Average Weekly F	Rents						
Changes in Constitution Four and Five-room	tuent of	Regimen		 		3	2, 34
rour and rive-roo	omed Ho	uses		 2, 6, 11	, 19, 20, 2	4-32, 34	, 237
Index-numbers—							
Hours of Labour—							
Females				 			68
Males				 			67
Retail Price—							,
"A" Series				 			38-
Abnormal Con	ditions,	Effects		 			-
				 		19, 20, 24	
Base Periods				 			16
Basic Principle	es of			 			2
"C" Series				 		5, 6, 18,	
Ulothing				 		20, 24-27	
Collection of I Comparative (	nformati	on		 			
Comparative (	1911 bas	e)		 			237
Comparative ( Compilation Conversion Fa	otoma for	T7 a mi	D	 		2	, 13
"Court" Serie				 			
"D" Series (H	78 Farwester	All Ito	ma)	 	39, 76, 77		
Essential Feat	ures	-2111 1.00	шо)	 			
Food and Groo	eries			 	19, 20, 24	 I_2T_24	3
Graph				0,	19, 20, 24		
Housing—Four	r and Fiv	ve-roome	d Houses	 	6, 19, 20		
International (	Comparis	ons		 		42, 160-	
Levels, 1914-5	2			 			
Mass Units				 		11	
Method of Tab	ulation	 I D		 			
Miscellaneous 1	Househol	d Requir	ements	 	6, 19, 2		
Population We Publication of	ignts for			 			
Purpose of	• •			 			18
Recent Years,	Increases			 			3
Regimen				 		3, 10	7
Standards				 		3,	
Tabular Staten	ients			 			
Thirty Towns					21-23, 2		
Two Hundred				 		32,	
Wage Variation	ns on			 			
War Conditions				 			35
Weights				 		II	-13
Wage—							
Effective or Re	al			 		68,	237
Nominal—							
Females				 			61
Males	• •	• •		 		59, 69,	237
Wholesale Price—							
Basic Materials		dstuffs		 			45
Regimen				 			46-
International C Melbourne				 			49"
memormine				 		• •	47

							PAGE.
Industrial Accidents							136
Acts							51
Boards							51
Disputes. (See	"Disputes	.)					iii
Groups, for Tab	mations						51, 56
Legislation Tribunals, Acts	• •						51
	Administrat						51
" Interim " Basic W							77
International Compa							
Retail Prices						9,	42, 160-162
Wage Rates and		abour					231
Wholesale Price							49
International Labou	r Conference	es					152
	Organizati	on					152
Interstate Organizat	ions, Trade	Unions					150
Labour Conferences,	Internation	al					152
Exchanges, Sta							121
Hours of							57, 70, 214
Organizations							146
Central							150
" Lag " in Adjustme	ent of Basic	Wage					76
Laws Regulating In-							51, 56
Legislation, Industr							51, 56
	'Compensat						137
"Loadings"							74, 75
Lockouts and Strike							
Mass Units							11-13
Melbourne Wholesal	e Price Inde	X					47
Membership, Trade	Unions						146
Mining Accidents							136
Miscellaneous Hous				Price In	ndex-		
numbers						6, 19,	20, 24-27, 35
Regimen							13
" Needs " Basic Wa	ige						75
Nominal Wages							59, 68, 237
Occupational Group							iii
Rates of Wage		of Labour					214, 228, 231
Occupied Persons	• •						106
Operations, Industr	ial Tribunals	S					51
Organization, Centr	al Labour						150
Registered							151
Trade Unions				• • •			146
Population Weights	(Retail Price	e Indexes	)				17
Prices, Average Ret							153-158
Collection of							I
Control Measur	es						5, 9
International C	Comparisons						, 49, 160-162
Publication of	Retail Prices	s and Price	e Index	r-numbers			18
Retail. (See "							8
Variations in R							
Wholesale, Ind		• •					45-49
Productive Activity							70
"Prosperity" Load	0			• •	• •		7:
Public Service Arbit	trator						54

Dadam of III							PAGE
Rates of Wage							5
Real or Effective Wage	es						50, 68, 186
Regimens—							
Retail Prices							3, 10, 3
Changes							3:
Clothing	· · · · · · · ·						12, 3
Cost, Percenta	age Distribut	tion of					II, I
Food and Gro- Groups and Se							11, 3
Miscellaneous	Items .						10
Wholesale Price (B	Basic Materia	ils and	Foodstu	ffs) Inde	· ·	• •	10, 3
Registered Organization				ns) inde		• •	4
Rents. (See "Housing						• •	15
	5 .)						
Retail Prices—							
"A" Series Index							38
Average Monthly,	Food and G	roceries	, Capital	Cities			153-158
"B" Series Index							20, 24, 28, 38
Base Periods of Inc Basis of Index-num	dexes .						16
"C" Series Index	uners .			• •			2
Clothing, Index-nu	mbers .						0, 18, 38, 237
Regimen							20, 24-27, 35
Collection of Inform	mation .						12, 33
Compilation of Ind	exes .						
"Court" Series In	dex .						3, 80, 82, 163
"D" Series Index							39, 76
Food and Groceries					6, 19,	20, 24-32,	34, 153, 237
Graph Housing—							50
All Houses							
Four and Five	-roomed Ho	nses			. 6 . 7 7		32
Index-numbers. (A	See "Index-	number	·s '' )	2	2, 0, 11	, 19, 20, 22	1-32, 34, 237
International Comp	parisons .					0	42, 160-162
Levels, 1914–52							5
Mass Units							11-13
Method of Tabulati	ion of Index	-numbe	rs				13
Miscellaneous Hous	ehold Requi	rements	s, Index	number	S	6, 19, 2	20, 24-27, 35
Population Weights	. f T		Regim	en			13
Publication of Inde	y-numbers						17
Regimen	A HUILINGIS		• •			, * *	18
Relative Expenditu	re of Items	and Gro	ouns	• •			3, 10, 32
Standarda	OF FOLIA	OII	~ ~ PD				TT T
Buandards							11, 15
Standards Tabular Statements	s of Index-n	umbers					3, 14
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns	s of Index-n	umbers					3, 14
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town	s of Index-number of solutions	umbers				 21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on	s of Index-nums	umbers					3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff	s of Index-nons Index-num fects	umbers bers				21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights	s of Index-num  Index-num  fects	umbers bers	•••		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights	s of Index-num  Index-num  fects	umbers bers	•••		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	21-23, 2 	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights	s of Index-num  Index-num  fects	umbers bers	•••			21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights	s of Index-num  Index-num  fects	umbers bers	•••			21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights	s of Index-num  Index-num  fects	umbers bers	•••			21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights oyal Commission on th	s of Index-nums a Index-num fects ae Basic Wag	umbers bers ge, 1920				21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights oyal Commission on th	s of Index-num in Index-num fects a Basic Wag	umbers bers ge, 1920				2I-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13 102
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights oyal Commission on th ckness Benefits (Comm tandard Hours of Work	s of Index-num ns n Index-num fects ne Basic Wag nonwealth)	umbers bers ge, 1920				21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights oyal Commission on th  ckness Benefits (Comm tandard Hours of Work tate Basic Wages	s of Index-num ins in Index-num fects ine Basic Wag annwealth)	umbers bers ge, 1920				2I-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13 102
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights Loyal Commission on th  ickness Benefits (Comm tandard Hours of Work tate Basic Wages Labour Exchanges	s of Index-num ins In Index-num fects The Basic Wag annwealth)	umbers bers ge, 1920				2I-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13 102
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights Loyal Commission on th  ickness Benefits (Comm tandard Hours of Work tate Basic Wages Labour Exchanges Industrial Tribuna	s of Index-norms a Index-num fects are Basic Wag annwealth)	umbers bers ge, 1920				21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13 102 121 70 92, 102
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights Loyal Commission on th  ickness Benefits (Comm tandard Hours of Work tate Basic Wages Labour Exchanges Industrial Tribuna	s of Index-norms a Index-num fects are Basic Wag annwealth)	umbers bers ge, 1920				21-23, 2	3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13 102 121 70 92, 102 121
Tabular Statements Thirty Towns Two Hundred Town Wage Variations on War Conditions, Eff Weights Royal Commission on th ickness Benefits (Comm tandard Hours of Work tate Basic Wages Labour Exchanges	s of Index-num ins in Index-num fects ine Basic Wag annwealth) is in Index-num in In	umbers bers ge, 1920					3, 14 18 25-27, 29-31 32, 39 36 35 11-13 102 121 70 92, 102 121 54

						P	AGE.
Territories—							
Australian Capital Territory-							
							86
Industrial Authority							54
Northern Territory—							0
Basic Wage							87
Thirty Towns, Retail Price Index	a-number	'S			21-23,	25-27, 2	9-31
Towns, Population Weights							17
Trade Unions, Classified by Num	bers of M	<b>1</b> embers					149
Industrial Groups							147
Interstate or Federated Number and Membership							150
Number and Membership							146
Ratio to Total Wage and Sa							148
Unemployment Amongst Me				• •			
Two Hundred Towns Retail Price	e index-	numbers			• •	3	2, 39
Unemployment. (See also "Em	nlovment	t. ''\—					
Benefits							123
Exchanges, State Labour							121
Total							114
Trade Unions							115
Australia							116
Industrial Groups	• •					• • .	117
States					• •		117
Various Countries		• •		• •			-
Unions, Trade			* *	• •	• •		146
Want and Salama Eagrang in Ciri	lion Em	plormont					110
Wage and Salary Earners in Civi Graph		pioyment.					109
							52
Wages, Acts Regulating Automatic Adjustment							40
Basic. (See "Basic Wage"							Т-
Boards							54
Effective or Real						50, 68	
Graph	:.						50
International Comparisons							231
Nominal Hourly, Females Males				• • •			4, 66
Males						0	61
Weekly, Females Males						59, 60	
Occupational Rates, Compa	rison—S	vdnev. L	ondon :			39, -:	231
							228
							214
Males Scales for Automatic Adjust	ments						40
Variation on Retail Price In	dex-nun	ibers					36
War Periods—							
Control Measures over Price							5, 9
Retail Price Index—Effects Retail Prices—Increases, 19		watmalia a	d O+1	on Count	nios:		35 7-9
	39-52, E	tustrana a	ma Ou	ier Count	iles	• •	7-9
Weights-							17
Population				• •	• •		1/
Regimen— Retail Prices							11-13
Wholesale Prices							46
Wholesale Prices—							
Basic Materials and Foodst	uffs						45
Graph							50
International Comparisons							49
Melbourne Index							47
Women's Employment Board	٠						. 82
Workers' Compensation Legislat	ion (Con	spectus)					137
							70

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Camberra.

